



# **The Hon Chris Hartcher**

## **Minister for Resources and Energy**

### **Special Minister of State**

### **Minister for the Central Coast**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NSW SOLAR SUMMIT TO PAVE THE WAY FOR RENEWABLES**

Minister for Resources and Energy, Chris Hartcher together with Minister for the Environment, Robyn Parker and Rob Stokes, Parliamentary Secretary for Renewable Energy today announced the NSW Solar Summit 2 will be held on 1 July and will work towards securing a low emissions and low cost energy future for NSW.

Industry and government representatives, energy experts, and consumer and environment groups will gather at the Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources to develop a set of agreed actions to guide the further development of solar and renewable energy in NSW.

Mr Hartcher said the Summit will be a key pathway to managing the development of the renewable energy industry in a consistent and sustainable manner.

“The NSW Government remains committed to renewable energy with a focus on sensible, sustained and affordable progress for renewables,” Mr Hartcher said.

“Solar energy is a key part of that program. We are world leaders in solar industry research and we are committed to supporting a successful solar and renewable energy sector in NSW.

“This is why the NSW Government is hosting a Solar Summit, in two parts, in our first 100 days to kick-start action on our renewable energy strategy.”

The NSW Government held its first Solar Summit in May, which facilitated discussion on a range of issues surrounding the Solar Bonus Scheme.

The Solar Summit 2 will focus on achieving a practical way forward for the renewables industry, including:

- Options for a fair price for solar generated electricity;
- A practical way forward for small, medium and large scale solar in NSW;
- Peak load management to reduce costs and energy consumption; and
- Renewable energy investment.

The Summit will inform the development of a Solar Action Plan to provide a predictable and stable operating environment for solar investment, research and development in NSW.

Mr Hartcher said the NSW Government looked forward to achieving these goals in close partnership with industry and private investment.

“Just yesterday we made the announcement that NSW would be home to one of the world’s largest solar power stations under the Solar Flagships Program.

“This is a huge win for NSW and large-scale solar development, and will help ensure NSW is well-positioned to meet its future energy targets.

“It is also indicative of our commitment to policy that drives the NSW economy, encourages investment and jobs, and supports affordable renewable energy initiatives.

“I look forward to receiving the recommendations that arise out of the Summit,” Mr Hartcher said.