

# Power to the people

## Energy-saving scheme will save families \$300 a year

THE Federal Government will seek state support for a mandatory energy-saving scheme which its own modelling reveals could reduce the annual family power bill by up to \$300 a year.

A key recommendation of a Prime Ministerial taskforce on energy efficiency, the scheme would shift the responsibility of reducing electricity use from families to the energy retail companies.

The report was handed to the Federal Government in

SYDNEY

SIMON BENSON



July, but not released until two weeks ago. Prime Minister Julia Gillard has yet to provide a formal response to the recommendations. But Federal Climate Change Minister Greg Combet confirmed yesterday that he would now

push the case for a national energy savings scheme with the state governments.

"Improving energy efficiency is one of the Government's priority areas for tackling climate change," he said. "There is a lot of work to be done but I will be working co-operatively with all state governments... to progress national reform in this area."

"By improving energy efficiency, families will be able to save money on their bills

and achieve an outcome that is good for the environment."

The taskforce advisory group set up by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in 2009 included mining giant Rio Tinto, energy company Origin Energy as well as the Climate Institute, the ACTU and the National Council of Social Services.

Its modelling report, produced by McLellan Magasanik Associates, recommends that on top of a carbon price, power companies meet

increased energy efficiency targets of up to 30 per cent - or face financial penalties.

One of the members of the Prime Minister's taskforce, the Climate Institute, said the main way the targets would be met was through energy retailers directly reducing household energy consumption by either fully funding or helping to replace such things as inefficient appliances in the home.

The report found that even with a carbon price or emis-

sions trading scheme, an Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme could save the average household \$90-\$300 on annual electricity bills by 2020.

Climate Institute deputy chief executive Erwin Jackson said the Federal Government must act on energy efficiency.

"The government's own modelling shows along with a carbon price that it could save average families \$300 a year," Mr Jackson said.



## Men's hairstyle all shook up - and brushed up

**SLICK LOOK:** Leigh Gathercole has his hair styled into a quiff at Zone7 salon at Malvern while inset, Elvis, Robert Pattinson and James Dean with the same style.

Picture: CALUM ROBERTSON

HELENE SOBOLEWSKI

HAIR-RAISING quiffs are putting the twist back in style.

The men's haircut is a modern version of the pompadour, which was hugely popular in the 1950s, when it was worn by stars including Elvis, James Dean and Montgomery Clift.

The trend is said to coincide with men's clothes becoming more "preppy" this year.

To achieve the style, which requires hair product to keep it in place, the hair is cut shorter at the back and longer at the top.

American actor Zac Efron recently replaced his side-swept fringe for the hairdo with more

volume at the front. Also heading the trend this year are musician Mark Ronson and *Twilight* actor Robert Pattinson.

Zone7 hair stylist Corey Caputo said the trend would stick around for another year.

"My friend in the UK came back to Australia about three years ago and cut my hair into a quiff and

told me that is where men's hairstyles were heading," he said.

"At least once every decade, the quiff sticks up, or out or rolls gently forward on to the catwalk and then into our salons and then on to the streets."

Customer Leigh Gathercole has been sporting the look for the past six months.

"It's a bit more edgy, it's a retro look," he said.

For stylist Filip Odzak, the quiff coincides with men's demand for a more "preppy and tailored" look.

"I don't think it's ever been out of fashion. It is a classic," he said. "The overall polished look is a classic quiff." It was affordable and easy to uphold, he said.



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