



**Heather Butler, MP**

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

Thursday, 8 January 2009

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## **Government Schools Switch Off to Save Energy**

Tasmanian Government schools have saved thousands of dollars by switching off to save energy costs, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Heather Butler said today.

Ms Butler said that since the Energy Saving Guide was launched last year schools had reported significant savings.

“Each year Tasmanian Government schools spend over \$8 million on energy,” Ms Butler said.

“By implementing simple, no-cost energy efficiency strategies schools can achieve substantial cost savings.”

“Already schools have reported reductions in their electricity bills since introducing energy-saving measures.

“For example Ringarooma District High saved \$200 in the first four weeks of implementing an energy saving plan which included switching off unnecessary lights and monitoring the temperature of their heat pump.

“Bridport Primary has also noticed savings by reducing the temperature in classrooms.

“Over the Christmas holidays Norwood, South George Town and Trevallyn primary schools are putting together energy saving teams to share tips and ideas on how to make further savings.”

“Other schools, such as Ogilvie High, New Norfolk Primary, Blackmans Bay, Sorell School and Ouse District High School are also very enthusiastic about reducing their energy consumption in 2009.”

“Importantly, the energy allocation is subject to cost indexation so that any savings that schools achieve from improved energy efficiency are retained by the school.”

“The value of savings from reduced energy usage could be quite substantial and it can be invested back into school communities.”

Ms Giddings said that most schools had a great opportunity to significantly reduce their energy usage from computers, lights, heaters, air conditioners and heat pumps, printers and copiers, and tea and coffee boilers.

“An energy saving program can save 10 per cent simply by adopting good housekeeping practices such as switching off lights when not required, closing windows and regularly checking heating control settings.”

“The school energy saving incentive program is another practical example of this Government’s commitment to addressing climate change,” Ms Butler said.