



Speech by

Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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GREEN IT AWARENESS WEEK

Mrs STUCKEY (Currumbin—LNP) (11.59 am): A constituent in my electorate is the driver behind a global environmental initiative that would see enormous reductions in carbon emissions just by getting people to turn off their computers when not in use. Mark Winter is head of ComputerOFF.org. and the Australian mastermind of International Green IT Awareness Week, which will run between 1 and 7 June. This initiative has already attracted huge support from overseas.

Awareness is at the heart of this global campaign, which aims to spread education and enthusiasm for implementing green technology policies to individuals, businesses and governments. The Green IT website offers 100 tips on ways to be more sustainable, including setting defaults to double-sided print, turning up the temperature of air conditioners by a degree and turning off screen savers.

ComputersOFF.org. has two main ambitions: to educate and to certify. Educating people and businesses on how to be more sustainable with technology coincides with their certification program—a national program that certifies businesses and organisations based on their sustainable technology policies. The largest certified government department is the Australian Crime Commission, which is one of the 60 or so organisations that is becoming certified through the ComputersOFF program each year.

Simple power management policies, if implemented for the 16 million computers that operate each day in Australian businesses and government departments, are proven money savers and reduce Australia's carbon footprint. A computer left on overnight for a year creates enough CO₂ to fill a double-decker bus. If every Australian consciously does one small thing to save energy, that is 22 million incidents that will significantly reduce the negative impact on our planet.

Electricity consumed by an average PC generates almost 160 kilograms of carbon dioxide each year by simply running at full power and when no user is present. ComputersOFF has a simple motto: saving the planet, one idle computer at a time. That sounds like a responsible, cost-saving strategy for an environmentally minded government to adopt, which is why it is included in the LNP's power management policy. I urge all members of this House to get behind Green IT Week.