

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

April 3, 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a submission to the Senate Enquiry into the Green Loans Program.

I am a Home Sustainability Assessor under HSAS. I received my Accreditation number, HO57003, from ABSA on 9 February 2010. However I have not yet received my final documentation, or a Contract from the **Department**, presumably because of uncertainty regarding proposed changes to the Program. This is frustrating as I intended to make this my main source of income.

(Although my Accreditation is only recent I was delayed in the process because of a lack of courses being run in Tasmania. In the end I travelled to Melbourne to do my course at some considerable additional expense).

I submit as follows:

1. The Green Loans Program is an excellent one for increasing the awareness of the householder to opportunities to improve the energy efficiency and water usage of their homes. It is also an excellent vehicle for helping change public attitude towards the effects of climate change. The program should be ongoing in some form or other.
2. The Program should not be free to the householder. This has led to abuse of the scheme. There should be some cost borne by the householder, say \$50. This will go a long way to ensuring that any Assessments that are undertaken are genuine. (Making the fee a tax deduction is not fair as it favours those people on a higher marginal tax rate).
3. I understand that it is intended to reduce the number of assessors to around 5,000. In respect of this change I would like to make the following comments:
 - (a) The Assessors selected should be done on the **basis of ensuring that adequate geographical coverage exists**. The southern beaches area in Tasmania, where I live, according to the last Register of Assessors that I viewed, is not currently represented and adequate Assessor representation is needed in this area. People want to deal with locals. Any review of Assessors should be based on the needs "on the ground".
 - (b) The basis of selection should **not** be based on the length of time that someone has been an Assessor. No Assessor has been guaranteed work so it is not justified for those that have been registered for some time to claim preferential treatment in any review. We have all incurred similar expenses for training, insurance and ABSA fees, although some of us have been prevented from earning any income yet. All Assessors, including those whose processing has not been completed, should be given an opportunity to continue in the scheme.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Michael Rayner

