

To Senate Enquiry into Green Loans Program:

Having completed approximately 2,000 Queensland Government Climate Smart Home Services in the past 12 months, as well as qualifying as a Household Sustainability Assessor (under Environment Australia), and completing a number of these assessments, I believe I am able to offer a useful submission to enquiry.

Qld Government goal is to reduce GHG (Green House Gas) production. Householder may not understand but is painfully aware of increased energy costs.

During the course of Qld Government program I have witnessed the change in awareness of the average householder to the practicality of being able to reduce energy consumption. Word of mouth by satisfied consumers has been as beneficial as the face to face contacts.

The National Sustainability Program needs to achieve the same level of penetration of the population to be successful.

1. Because the changes to a home to help the sustainability, often require considerable expenditure, the interest free green loans was a very good carrot to book an assessment and then to make the changes.
2. Home buyers and those building need to become aware of the huge difference in running costs ie GHG emissions from home to home. I have been amazed at these variations in the 2,000 approximately homes I have audited.
3. It needs to be compulsory for homes being sold or built to have a professional assessment and to be issued with a star rating. In Queensland currently, the compulsory owner declaration legally able to be just signed and left blank and the vast majority of prospective purchasers are not even bothering to look. This indicates to me that the public awareness of sustainability other than electricity costs is very low.