

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



RE: Inquiry into the Energy Efficient Homes Package.

Dear Secretary,

There is no excuse that the Minister nor the Department can spin for not having researched and developed a comprehensive range of proper policies, procedures, audit systems around the Energy Efficient Homes Package. Do not dare blame any short coming of the scheme upon the 'Global Financial Crisis' and the urgent need to stimulate the economy. If anyone does then they are truly showing their incompetence.

Why do I say this...well look at the time-line from when the first insulation scheme in particular was announced...almost 2 years ago.

In **May 2008** the Treasurer announced during his budget delivery that Landlords would be entitled to something like \$350 -\$500 rebate for rental properties to be insulated. For the Treasurer to announce such I would have assumed that some detailed work/policies by the Environment Department would have already been instigated during the months preceding this 2008 budget announcement. I made contact with the Environment Department soon after for information so that I could take up the offer. I got a reply back saying that details were still being worked out. About 6 months later I asked the same question again and basically got the same reply. And then in the **2009 May** budget (I think) the Treasurer then announced details of the new more comprehensive home insulation scheme. So the Minister and his Department has had over 2 years to get the 'process' right and to iron out all the 'bugs'. They didn't.

Someone needs to take responsibility for such gross incompetence (eg. financial, administrative, operational, procedural, etc) around this scheme – the Minister and a number of senior/middle ranking bureaucrats are to blame. It shames me to have to shame a Minister and a Department for a lack of moral ethics.

Yours in service...

Tom Gordon