

URGENT PLEA!

TO ALL AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES, DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES & SENATORS.

Date: 13 April 2010

Subject: Many Green Loans assessors to lose their homes and/or suffer financial hardship due the collapse of Green Loans Assessor's Co-Operative PTY LTD (GLACO).

From: Green Loans Assessor Assessing since July 1st, 2009.
On behalf of all GLACO effected assessors.

Dear politicians and department heads.

I have been an assessor for the Green Loans program since it's introduction on July 1st 2009. I viewed the program as a positive government initiative which will help householders save money, live more comfortably all year round and reduce carbon gas emissions across Australia. I am a licensed electrician and provide qualified energy advice.

However, due to the very low volume of work provided by DEWHA (the department) between July and October 2009 and having exhausted all my own marketing materials and budget, I decided to utilise the services of a company namely, GLACO who, initially contacted me via email.

I paid a (supposedly refundable after 10 assessments) \$200 joining fee and GLACO began to provide me the number of appointments I requested.

After delays in payments to assessors from GLACO for the months of December 2009 and January and February 2010, it became clear that this company was in breach of it's own contract which clearly states they would pass on payment from the department to assessors within 24 hrs of receipt (less their fee) - "guaranteed".

This clearly did not happen and for most assessors, the \$200 "commitment fee" was never returned either. After assessor's suspicions were raised by these payment issues and the somewhat arrogant attitude by GLACO management when pressed on the point, assessors began to believe that there was something going on which we weren't being told about.

Phone calls to DEWHA were made by many GLACO members requesting information about payments to GLACO and whether or not they had been paid. I was regularly being told by GLACO that payment from the department to them was being delayed for reasons "out of their control". Evidence which has come to hand since, shows that GLACO was being paid by the department far earlier than they (GLACO) were telling us.

As the situation worsened and assessors became more concerned about being paid by GLACO, we requested to the department that we assessors be granted permission to **invoice the department directly** and voiced our concerns to the department about GLACO's payment issues.

In EVERY CASE, assessors were told that we "cannot invoice DEWHA directly" and that we had to invoice GLACO because we had a contract with them. I know many assessors including myself who persisted with requests to the department for direct invoicing (in fear of non-payment from GLACO) were never successful.

In view of this attitude by the department, we assessors had no choice but to continue to invoice GLACO (against our better judgement) who in turn invoiced DEWHA for all of our completed assessments.

Assessors invoiced GLACO for December work in early January 2010. GLACO were paid in early to mid Jan for this work but payment to assessors did not eventuate until 15 Feb. 2010 (a clear breach of their contract). The directors Trevor McTaggart and Neil Dodemaide changed the payment arrangements by issuing us with a payment schedule. Assessors would now be getting paid on the 1st of each month.

Persistent phone calls and emails to GLACO were made by members during February and March 2010 asking for reassurance regarding our payments. In every case, we were told by GLACO that we will be paid.

Assessors invoiced GLACO for February jobs approx. 1-5 March 2010. GLACO were paid not long after.

Neil Dodemaide resigned in early March (with an alleged pay-out of \$40K) apparently to pursue an engineering position. This raised assessor's suspicions even further. Assessors were worried about what was going on and suspected that the company *may* be operating while *insolvent*.

On many occasions assessors spoke to Trevor McTaggart leading up to the 1st of April and he reassured us all that we would be paid on the 1st of April and that nothing was wrong.

I personally spoke to _____ (GLACO Invoicing) on March 29, 2010 and specifically asked him if we are being paid on the 1st of April for our February invoices. His answer was "Yes".

On April 1st, 2010, assessors received an email from Trevor McTaggart announcing the company had ceased operation on the 30th of March and there was NO MONEY TO PAYASSESSORS and they only had approx. \$874.00 in their account.

Money would have been paid from DEWHA to GLACO somewhere between early to mid March 2010 for our February invoices. Yet McTaggart says the company has no money, two to three weeks later to pay us on April 1 - *as promised just days earlier*.

McTaggart was telling everyone that payment was fine for the 1st of April right up until the 31st of March 2010. He deceived all of us right to the end.

There is further evidence of ill doings of T. McTaggart as he is known for similar things in the past.

As if it's not bad enough that DEWHA reduced the number of assessments an assessor can do per week to five (due to an oversupply of assessors), the department refused to listen to many cries of help from assessors when asked for permission to invoice the department directly because of concerns of payment issues with GLACO.

Now, GLACO members have not been paid for any work performed during the whole of February 2010 and DEWHA has reduced the number of assessments we are able to perform. We can't even recoup the losses we have incurred because of this change in the program.

To make matters even worse, many assessors worked longer hours and more days per week during February knowing that the number of assessments per assessor was being capped to 5 per week beginning on March 1st. We worked harder and longer - FOR ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!

This situation is clearly unsatisfactory and in many assessor's cases - **CATASTROPHIC!**

Politicians and the department need to step in and offer compensation to effected GLACO members who all along, have simply wanted to perform quality assessments and try to make a living (and a difference) in what should have been, a successful and environmentally friendly program.

On behalf of all the assessors effected by the GLACO collapse and the denial of direct invoicing from the department, I implore you examine our case and pressure DEWHA to compensate assessors effected by GLACO. Also, an investigation into GLACO for any wrong doing and possible breaches of law should be put into action.

We are all hurting! Some of us are going to lose our homes if action is not taken IMMEDIATELY!

The least DEWHA can do NOW, is pay our March invoices IMMEDIATELY instead of making us wait the mandatory "30 days from date of invoice".

In my own case, I have pleaded with DEWHA to do this when I submitted my March invoice.

I look forward in anticipation to a positive response and outcome and thank you for taking the time to read this plea. Please move my message forward asap to create a financial outcome for all assessors involved.

Yours sincerely,

Green Loans Assessor