

FROM: MICHAEL RIFAT ENERGY ASSESSOR

TO

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Senate Standing Committee on Environment,
Communications and the Arts
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MEASURES AND SUGGESTIONS

REVITALISING THE SCHEME

HOME ENERGY CARBON REDUCTION PLAN:

Based on my experience and observations In order to improve the program a number of measures and guidelines should be put in place, to successfully run the program for the long term without the need for financial Government support.

My suggestion below gives an incentive to Householders to reduce and maintain their carbon emissions and as an incentive sell their carbon credits for financial gains and pay for their Energy Assessments eliminating the huge cost to Government.

Best of all this program will create a long term professional Employment and It will definitely reduce and maintain carbon emissions by a vast number of households across the country.

- 1- Home Energy Assessments should be made compulsory for every household over 12 months with clear objectives in place for house holders to trade their Carbon reductions as an incentive**

2- A specific Household Energy Carbon Limit should be set for households in consideration of additional individuals living in the household, creating an Objective and a Target for the Householders. Initially the Energy Carbon Limit should be set low to encourage Householders to participate and reduce their costs by selling their annual Carbon credits.

3- Initial Assessment: Once a Carbon Target is determined process should begin with an Initial Assessment using the current Green Loans calculator a greater emphasis should be given to a full 12 months of Energy usage and a more specific break up of target areas for energy reduction.

E.g. if a household is a high user of clothes dryers this should be singled out and more detailed info should be collected about the appliance and it's usage for improved accuracy the Assessment Report should reflect this as a major area describing the annual \$ savings in Electricity and \$ Carbon credits

Cost to Households for the Initial Assessment should be set at \$200.00 + gst and use the updated Green Loan calculator

Follow up Assessments: should be done annually at the anniversary of the Initial Assessment at a cost of \$50.00 + Gst and by collecting a full annual

Energy usage to calculate the Annual Carbon Reduction Credits.

4- Assessment fees should be fully Tax Deductable.

5- A Public Carbon Bank should be established to purchase all Household Carbon Credits and on sell the credits to Companies willing to offset their emissions...

Note:

Energy Rating of new homes prior to occupancy and Established homes prior to sale or rental together with above Home Energy Carbon Reduction Plan will result in improved energy efficiency and substantially reduced carbon emissions for the Country, at the same time creating a new sector of employment.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES GREEN LOANS PROGRAM:

I have a background in Quality Engineer (mechanical) and Small business Management for the last 22 years in Fast Foods, Café's and catering services, with Catering contracts to Federal Government Departments, but I have never experienced such mismanagement as the Green Loans program

- I have commenced as an Assessor in October 2008 I believe 3 Quality Assessments per day would have been sufficient, but I was surprised to see companies like Field Force offering it's Assessors up to 50 appointments pw and asking everyone on their workforce to become an Assessor before the Dec 09 deadline**
- For mid January and February I had around 63 bookings arranged in Bendigo but I was unable to ring the call centre for bookings and when I did we could only book 5 appointments, yet Assessors at Field Force was able to book as usual up to 50 appointments pw this was very disappointing because somehow the bookings were monopolized by F/Force whilst I was missing out. It would be interesting to know what percentage of the overall bookings went to Field Force prior the change to 5 bookings pw.**
- Replies to Complaints were totally frozen and the program was managed very poorly.**
- It made it quite difficult to manage business and Family finances without additional income.**
- Income from 5 appointments a week is quite difficult to manage a Business of this nature.**

In summary I was not expecting job guarantees instead I was expecting a fair and equal program for all Assessors. Assessors and Assessments numbers should have been calculated in prior to the commencement of the program for example 120 Assessors x 20 Assessments pw x 50 weeks x 3 years = 360000 assessments. Like any new program trial and pilot runs should have been conducted and analyzed before commencement.

Regardless of what occurred it's time to look forward and to improve the program.

Regards,

MICHAEL RIFAT