

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts.

Dear Sir /Madam

Having completed my assessor training for the Green Loans program in December, 2009, I am still without a contract with the department. I was intending to begin home assessments as early as the January, 2010, as I was very organized and did submit my application and contract immediately I finished the course.

Along with many others, I have endured considerable expense for training, insurance, membership and other tools in readiness for my new occupation. Some of the additional outlays, such as a new laptop, hardware supplies and tools of measure were also very expensive. As I am still without any income from the assessor program I now having to look for work in other fields.

Whilst I did view the potential for a great business opportunity with the Green Loans program, my main consideration to pursue the occupation was in providing information and guidance to householders regarding their energy and water saving practices. I truly believe that the concept of the program is essential to our future environmental existence. With this in mind, I hope that the program is not cut out completely, but reinstated as a reinvented and workable model

It is important to the existence of the program that it is supported by government and implemented by competent and professional assessors. This professional ism will only be attained through further training and the reduction in the amount of assessors and those whom are in it for the money only. It needs to be implemented by skilled, well informed up to the minute educated professionals with the environment as their main priority.

If the department were to offer some form of recompense to trained assessors for cost of training, insurance and other outlays if they agreed to leave the industry and forfeit their contractual rights, this may rid the scheme of some of the surplus assessors. In addition to this, if the department were to implement the requirement of further qualification, such as Certificate IV, I believe this would ensure role of the assessor would be consistent and establish the industry as a credible occupation through out the country.

Yours truly, GK.