

Tuesday 1st June

Senate Committee
Australian Green Loans Program Inquiry

It is my belief that Assessors Australia wide who were conducting assessments on behalf of the Federal Government have been financially injured as a direct result of the mismanagement and poor administrative procedures within the Green Loans program by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) and the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE).

There is a strong argument that the Federal Government has failed assessors by not providing equitable nor reliable access to the bookings function, delivered misleading information and did not provide functioning administration processes which has contributed to assessors financial hardship and loss.

The Assessors (HSA's) who trained, purchased compulsory insurance and were accredited at their own expense by and overseen by, Association of Building Sustainability Assessors (hereafter referred to as "ABSA") under arrangements set up by the Commonwealth Government of Australia, then became the field agents enlisted to spread the Green Loans message to the public. Their role was to disseminate information amongst the Australian public about home sustainability measures that they could effectively adopt into their everyday lives by way of a Home Sustainability Assessment and optional interest free loan. A program that had potential to be a very positive and worthwhile experience for all participants.

Instead, the Assessors were participants by contract (and suffered loss) in a destructive environment, the scale of which became apparent with the deleting of the assessors calendar and consequent collapse of the DEWHA Green Loans booking portal and invoicing system from late December 2009. The unilateral and sudden reconfiguration of the program specifications on 19 February 2010 by the (then responsible) Minister Garrett was the final nail in the coffin of the future financial viability of the many new small businesses that had been established by the Assessors under the promise of the Scheme.

By the end of March 2010 the cumulative impact of the mismanagement of the program by the Federal Government, its department and agencies had resulted in significant losses for assessors losing both financial and character. Public goodwill and perception had also suffered from the Government actions, its departments and its agencies actions as the Green Loans Program reputation evaporated in the face of significant maladministration and or defective administration.

The non-response from ministers and Government staff to communications from assessors has been prolific, intentional and ignorant of the needs of assessors despite those responsible knowing of the circumstances and resulting loss that assessors would experience because of their non-response to these communications.

It is my request and will that I be able to outline to the senate committee in person, the “on the ground impacts” this program has had on everyday people throughout Australia.

I have many examples that I would like to share with the committee.

I also request the opportunity to detail to the senate committee the prolific operational changes to the program that severely impacted on assessors.

Yours Faithfully,
Patrick Moroney