



Australian Government

**Department of Climate Change
and Energy Efficiency**

Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Environment, Communication and
the Arts Reference Committee
Suite 1.57
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Palethorpe *Stephen*

Thank you for your letter of 10 August 2010, to Dr Martin Parkinson, Secretary, Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, regarding the inquiry currently being conducted by the Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts References Committee into the Government's Green Loans Program. Dr Parkinson has asked that I respond to you on his behalf.

In particular, your letter refers to the written submission from a member of the GLACO Assessors Group, which comments specifically on the team responsible for implementing and managing the Green Loans Program, for which the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency is now responsible.

We appreciate the opportunity provided by the Committee to respond to this submission. The following comments are made on behalf of DCCEE.

At the outset, it should be noted that most of the material presented in the GLACO Assessors Group submission outlines information and findings contained in a number of reports which were publicly released on 8 July 2010. The Department also provided a comprehensive response to these reports on the day of public release.

The Department has made a significant effort to support the Green Loans Home Sustainability Assessors impacted by the cessation of GLACO. The Department's approach has included establishing a dedicated unit to support the GLACO assessors in regards to addressing their enquiries and any issues or concerns raised, as well as working through on an individual basis outstanding payment issues. The Department has also been in regular communication with the GLACO assessors, particularly in April and May 2010, and more recently, with their nominated representatives.

The claims under the Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration (CDDA Scheme) lodged by the GLACO Assessors Group on behalf of GLACO assessors are currently with the Department for consideration. The Department is involved in discussions with representatives of the GLACO Assessors Group regarding those claims.



thinkchange

GPO Box 854 Canberra ACT 2601 Tel: 02 6159 7000 www.climatechange.gov.au

The Department does not necessarily accept the various assertions and claims made in the GLACO Assessors Group submission and forming part of the CDDA Scheme claims lodged by that group. In particular, the Department disputes the extent of prior knowledge that the Department had in regard to the cessation of GLACO, as outlined in the testimony to the Senate Inquiry of 29 June 2010. The Department can also confirm that monies were not paid to GLACO in March 2010.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to respond to the submission made by the GLACO Assessors Group.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Thompson
Deputy Secretary

19 August 2010