

Tuesday, 22nd July 2014



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Att: John Denlay

Submission regarding REES review

Dear John, Inty and Craig,

Thanks for the opportunity to provide a submission to the REES review.

I believe that SA is showing leadership in Energy Efficiency and this will benefit the economy and the individuals of the state now and in to the future. An investment in Energy Efficiency is one of the wisest investments that can be made at this stage.

I have reviewed the changes and support the general thrust and many of the specifics of the proposal.

I support the further alignment with NSW and the move to include Commercial activities.

I encourage you to recommend an increase to the target for several reasons including the support for our industry, furthering of the benefits available from such a scheme and finally that the cost of many of these activities will be much less than the current free activities. We have performed some calculations using a variety of assumptions and believe the cost base of the scheme could reduce by between 30 to 50%.

We also encourage you to keep pursuing a tradeable commodity which will reduce the reliance on the retailers supporting specific activities.

The submission from EECCA will have a great deal more specific comments and we endorse each.

We look forward to continuing work constructively with you and should you require anything further, please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Bruce Easton
CEO

REES Consultation Paper August 2014

The Retailer Energy Efficiency Scheme is a well written document, a tool for delivering energy savings to households and businesses throughout South Australia.

The low income households will benefit from a focus on delivering energy audits to these households.

We ourselves have participated in Water & Energy Expos with Uniting Communities offering advice and energy saving tips at a community level. Quite often we give our time and experience to help people in the community that government departments can't.

We would like to see Obligated Retailers participating in community activities and look at the Retailer Energy Efficiency Scheme as an opportunity to connect with the communities in Metro and Regional areas, rather than an obligation to achieve their energy targets.

The concern at the moment is that only one retailer is active in the market place, with 50% of the marketplace, all other obliged retailers have completed their certificate creation and all assessors who have been in the field now have to look at other business opportunities as there is no further work in the sustainability sector.

This in itself creates a problem, Approved Providers who want to participate in the REES Scheme starting January 2015 now have to recruit a new workforce, put these people through an accredited training scheme with a registered RTO. So in effect it will be a totally new work force with no previous experience in the field, if you want a stable workforce you cannot stop start the scheme.

Delivery of energy audits to low income families must only be to concession card holders, at the moment I feel the audit needs to be addressed to a more professional model, an energy audit standard template, approved under the scheme to give good advice and is accountable, unlike the tick and flick process at the moment.

The audit qualification must be concession card holder and against the current household so in effect if that tenant has moved to another address they are entitled to a further audit.

Obligated retailers must be more accountable under the new scheme; we have over 22 products listed as approved products.

Products accredited under the New South Wales Scheme should have automatic accreditation under the Retailer Energy Efficiency Scheme.

With the Governments focus on expanding the scheme into the business market, there is a host of opportunities to promote energy saving products, such as LED Lighting, Commercial Lighting upgrades, water saving showerheads for the accommodation market place, but there is no obligation on the Obligated Retailers to partake in these 22 energy efficiency activities, this hinders the potential energy saving to the business world where energy cost blowouts are taking a heavy toll.

There are other products such as energy efficient pool pumps, refrigerators, freezers, clothes dryers, televisions, these are all part of the scheme to give energy savings, but if the Obligated Retailers don't take the activity then this service cannot be provided as there is nowhere that the certificates created can be traded.

The inability to have tradeable certificates creates a problem, it is again at the goodwill of the Obligated Retailers to participate in taking activities proposed by an energy conscious Government.

This process can be outsourced privately and could be in place by the 1st January 2015, instead of waiting and relying on other states to cement their energy efficiency schemes.

I propose that an activity approved by the scheme obliged Retailers must be obligated to take these activities as part of their certificate targets.

The update of REES- R to secure certificate creation on an input basis is certainly a plus against duplications.

Over the last four years we have participated in field activities and have run large teams of experienced and fully trained energy assessors to deal with energy companies and government departments and community groups.

We are available at any time to discuss and put forward ideas to improve the scheme.

This document was prepared by

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