

7th September 2014

Submission from : Eco Tech Services

Eco Tech Services has been established in 2013 for the purpose of assessing and advising residents of general households to reduce energy consumption. This has started to create interest and awareness in the Riverland community and has begun to generate demand for service in this industry.

We value the opportunity to provide a submission to the consultation paper.

We appreciate the long term support for the scheme by the South Australian government and the focus the REES scheme has on energy efficiency in the existing residential homes.

With this submission we have offered feedback and made suggestions on the Energy Audits provided under the scheme.

- The proposed specification of Energy Audits only allows advice and assistance to the few low-income households who haven't received the service over the 6 years of the schemes existence or where the recipients have moved to a new address.
- The definition of priority group customers is limited to concession card holders and does not include those working for low wages/part time and living in privately rented properties.

Set guidelines combining the advisory service in the residential sector with a structural improvement activity can direct the REES subsidy to activities with positive results for the future and help retrofit the existing homes for energy efficiency:

- For low-income householders a second Energy Audit should be allowed in conjunction with a REES activity where customer co-contribution for a structural/thermal performance takes place, i.e: Insulation, Efficient Hot Water Service, Thermally Efficient Windows. In these cases Energy Audit will also assist to collect evidence and improve the data kept on record with Activities such as ceiling insulation.
- To assist with the uptake in the first year of the revised scheme consider applying a for some structural/thermal improvement activities i.e. top-up of ceiling insulation, thermally efficient windows, heating and cooling systems and thermally efficient ductwork in priority group households.
- Energy Audit combined with structural and thermal performance improvement activity should be made available to private tenants who do not have Commonwealth Government concession cards. This makes the independent advisory service accessible to the tenant and information on subsidies for structural improvements available to the landlord.
- An Energy Audit on its own should be made available to private tenants who do not have Commonwealth Government concession cards, in the event of a new rental agreement or the renewal of an existing rental agreement.

The above recommendations for amendments to scheme activities and procedures will:

- Assist in promoting REES activities requiring customer co-contribution,
- Have this service available to priority group households seeking to improve energy efficiency of their home
- Be backed by a high level of compliance through the involvement of qualified Home Energy Assessors and accurate record keeping.

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