

Monday, 12 September 2011

Residential Energy Efficiency
Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
GPO Box 854
Canberra ACT 2601

Re: Residential Building Mandatory Disclosure

As a property valuation firm which also provides advice on resource consumption and asset management, we wish to bring to the attention of the Department our views on the current Mandatory Disclosure initiative. Having attended a briefing session in Adelaide and undertaken a literary review of the current subject we are of the opinion:

- 1) Mandatory Disclosure as a driver towards awareness of the management of residential energy consumption has potential to be a successful program.
- 2) If energy assessment is undertaken by any means short of the full thermal option and by independent and accredited assessors, we anticipate the valuation profession will treat outcomes as meaningless.
- 3) If Government loses the support of the valuation profession and other residential real estate market players, then the potential for the drivers to be 'cast in stone' will be lost for some time to come.
- 4) Government need to recognise at the early stages, and before implementation, which industry bodies (if not Government themselves) are recognised as the accrediting authority for energy assessors. The impact of having non-accredited assessors or to have a large number of accrediting authorities may increase the potential for poorly trained assessors to be operating in the market place.

We trust this letter assists in the Department's future decision-making.

Yours faithfully

Martin Burns

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