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Department of
Housing and Public Works

14 MAR 2016

Ms Tania Homan
Executive Director
Queensland Productivity Commission
PO Box 12112
BRISBANE QLD 4003

Submission 52

Tania
Dear Ms Homan

Thank you for your letter of 1 March 2016 and for drawing my attention to recommendation 54 of the Electricity Pricing Inquiry Draft Report.

The Department of Housing and Public Works supports in-principle, the recommendations outlined in the draft report (in particular recommendations 18, 24, 39 and 51) which seek to address electricity affordability in Queensland and minimise the impact of rising electricity costs on the most vulnerable Queenslanders.

In terms of recommendation 54, the Department of Housing and Public Works, as the administrator of building legislation in Queensland, has responsibility for the Queensland Development Code which contains specific energy efficiency standards for houses and multi-unit residential buildings. The department is committed to demonstrating leadership and supporting industry development. This includes early uptake of recommended, non-mandatory energy efficiency and sustainability measures into the social housing capital works program. This will ensure that Housing Services' capital investment decisions and design and product standards result in social housing that assists tenants to minimise energy consumption.

In addition, the department is working closely with the Department of Energy and Water Supply to investigate the potential installation of solar photovoltaics on public housing as a way to minimise the impact of rising living costs on low-income households. This work forms part of the Queensland Government's one million solar rooftops by 2020 target to drive further investment in renewable energy technologies and to lower electricity costs for families and businesses.

With a high proportion of public housing tenants living below the poverty line, I welcome the opportunity for the department to participate further in achieving positive outcomes for Queensland's low income and vulnerable households.

If you need any more information, Mr Jonathan Leitch, Executive Director, Strategy and Policy, Housing Services can be contacted on (07) 3007 4700 or email jonathan.leitch@hpw.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Liza Carroll
Director-General