



COMMISSIONER  
FOR SUSTAINABILITY  
AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT

Antonia Harmer  
Manager – Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme  
[EPD-EEIS@act.gov.au](mailto:EPD-EEIS@act.gov.au)

Dear Ms Harmer,

### EEIS Priority Household Target Consultation 2018-19

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the review of the *Priority Household Target (PHT)* for 2019. As part of the *Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)*, the PHT is achieved through a requirement that a set proportion of EEIS savings be delivered in these priority households every year. This initiative is critical in ensuring the cost of living impacts of climate change are managed, particularly for the low income demographic in the ACT.

I commend the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme Team for their work on the EEIS, and with it, the PHT, which is essential for supporting low income households. I note that there has been progress to address the four recommendations that I provided for last year's review.<sup>1</sup>

The EEIS has now started extending its opportunities into the public housing sector. This has been a critical step and needs continued pressure to address the significant housing stock that requires energy efficiency upgrades. I support the ongoing investment into this aspect.

I raise the next significant challenge which is to stimulate energy efficiency improvements in the private rental market particularly those premises geared towards lower socio-economic tenants.

This issue has been highlighted in a recent report by Better Renting: *Frozen out: The Burden of Energy Deficiency on People who Rent*.<sup>2</sup> We recently met with Joel Dignam, Director of Better Renting, to discuss these findings. I would be pleased to make an introduction if you are not already connected.

**Given these issues remain and are significant, the EEIS PHT should be retained at 20%.**

Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Professor Kate Auty  
Commissioner for Sustainability  
and the Environment

5 July 2018

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/1074492/Response-to-EEIS-consultation-on-the-PHT.pdf](https://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1074492/Response-to-EEIS-consultation-on-the-PHT.pdf)  
accessed 5 July 2018

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.betterrenting.org.au/frozen\\_out\\_energy\\_efficiency\\_report\\_renters](https://www.betterrenting.org.au/frozen_out_energy_efficiency_report_renters) accessed 5 July 2018

Commissioner: Professor Kate Auty (Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne)  
GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601  
ABN: 66 893 463 785

T: (02) 6207 2626 E: [envcomm@act.gov.au](mailto:envcomm@act.gov.au) W: [www.envcomm.act.gov.au](http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au)

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