



Hon Andrew Powell MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

Ref: CTS 09207/12

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 11 July 2012 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 1925-12 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The petition of citizens of Queensland and electors of the divisions of Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South draws to the attention of the House claims of adverse consequences resulting from the immediate closure of the ClimateSmart Home Service.

Your petitioners are requesting the House to reinstate the Service and provide funding for the next decade.

The Queensland Government is firm in its position that the Australian Government is responsible for reducing greenhouse gas emissions following the introduction of the carbon price on 1 July 2012, including work on improving household energy efficiency. Accordingly, the Queensland Government has discontinued its greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies including the ClimateSmart Home Service, to ensure Queenslanders do not pay twice for carbon reduction programs.

By closing the ClimateSmart Home Service, the government expects to save taxpayers up to \$5 million, helping to improve the State's financial position.

While the ClimateSmart Home Service had helped more than 335,000 households across Queensland to become more energy efficient, demand for the service had been declining resulting in higher costs to continue the program. In addition, there is also an increase in the availability of similar service and information providers emerging in the market. For example, both the Energex and Ergon Energy websites provide online information on how households and businesses can save energy.

Though the program has closed, the government will honour all warranties and services booked prior to the closure at midnight on 26 April 2012.

The government recognises the potential risks to Queensland's economy, communities, infrastructure and environmental assets from climate variability, extreme weather events and projected climate change impacts. Thus, the government will take steps to responsibly manage these risks by focusing on cost-effective adaptation initiatives.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Rod Goodbun, A/Executive Director, Sustainability Outcomes of the department on telephone 3330 5865.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Powell', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ANDREW POWELL MP