



PRESS RELEASE

Northern councils welcome amendments to VEET

The Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) has welcomed amendments introduced by the State Opposition, to legislation to abolish the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target (VEET).

The amendments would prevent the State Government from cutting the target for 2015, and abolishing the scheme at the end of next year, as planned. NAGA supports the continuation and expansion of the scheme as a successful market-based mechanism to support energy efficiency implementation for Victorian households and small business.

Rather than opposing the legislation outright, the Opposition introduced amendments to ensure targets were not reduced to zero at the start of 2015, effectively ending the scheme a year early. Shadow Minister for Energy and resources, Lily D'Ambrosio has stated that Labor is committed to keep VEET running and details of how it would operate in government will be released before the election.

Under the scheme, NAGA members have worked with suppliers to promote and extend uptake of the scheme to residents and businesses in their communities. This has included the provision of bulk buy schemes and programs to bundle products and to target specific residential sub-sectors including low-income, high usage, culturally and linguistically diverse and high-rise households. In contrast to other areas, total household electricity consumption is showing a notable pattern of decline across NAGA municipalities from 2009. This is occurring despite increased population and a growing population.

NAGA Chair, Paul Murfitt, said “retaining the VEET and, in particular, expanding it to include small to medium-sized businesses would capitalise on the investment that’s already been made, and ensure small business gets the benefits of reduced energy cost in difficult economic times.”

The Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) operates across northern metropolitan region of Melbourne. NAGA’s council members include Banyule City Council, Darebin City Council, Hume City Council, Manningham City Council, City of Melbourne, Moreland City Council, Moreland Energy Foundations Limited, Nillumbik Shire Council, City of Whittlesea and the City of Yarra.

For more information on VEET, please contact David Meiklejohn, NAGA Executive Officer on 9385 8505 or david@mefl.com.au.