



NORTHERN  
ALLIANCE FOR  
GREENHOUSE  
ACTION

c/- Moreland Energy Foundation Limited  
Level One 200 Sydney Road Brunswick  
PO Box 276 Brunswick 3056  
Phone 03 9385 9505  
[david@mefl.com.au](mailto:david@mefl.com.au)  
[www.naga.org.au](http://www.naga.org.au)

The Honourable Gordon Rich-Phillips  
Assistant Treasurer

[gordon.rich-phillips@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:gordon.rich-phillips@parliament.vic.gov.au)

16 April 2014

Dear Minister,

### **Re: Future of the Greener Government Buildings Program**

On behalf of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA), I write to express concern at recent media reports regarding the ending of the Greener Government Buildings program, and its replacement with the new Efficient Government Buildings program.

NAGA operates across the 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. NAGA formed in 2002 to share information, coordinate emission reduction activities and cooperate on research and the development of innovative projects. NAGA's goal is to achieve significant emissions abatement and energy cost savings by delivering effective programs and leveraging local government, community and business action.

NAGA and its members prioritise the implementation of energy efficiency to deliver improved savings both financially and in the efficient use of our energy resources. The Greener Government Buildings program has provided our members both with funding for large energy efficiency infrastructure improvements as well as a repository of expertise and a mechanism to share best practice. The Efficient Government Buildings program will de-centralise funding away from Treasury to individual government departments and agencies, where energy efficiency upgrades will compete with other spending priorities.

Our concerns about the replacement of Greener Government Buildings with the Efficient Government Buildings program are that:

- local government will no longer have access to the funds and expertise that were available under the Greener Government Buildings program;
- there will no longer be a mechanism to share best practice in energy infrastructure upgrades amongst organisations;
- the current central repository of information and expertise will be lost;
- a move away from a consistent approach will result in a funding development process which will be more cumbersome than currently exists; and
- in competing with core program delivery priorities in internal departmental budgets, energy efficiency improvements may be neglected.

#### **MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL, DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL, HUME CITY COUNCIL, MANNINGHAM CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF MELBOURNE, MORELAND CITY COUNCIL, MORELAND ENERGY FOUNDATION LIMITED, NILLUMBİK SHIRE COUNCIL, CITY OF WHITTLESEA, CITY OF YARRA

***The views represented in this submission do not necessarily represent the views of all NAGA members individually.***

The Greener Government Buildings, in its current form, provides an effective and efficient financial mechanism to upgrade energy infrastructure in a way that delivers real returns to the state. This has resulted in direct cost savings of \$32.17 million in the 2009-12 period.

It is the opinion of NAGA members that the proposed replacement program will be far less effective both in terms of delivering financial as well as energy savings, and we ask you to reconsider this approach.

Please contact me (phone: 9385 9505 or email [david@mefl.com.au](mailto:david@mefl.com.au)) if you would like further information, or any clarification regarding the issues raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Meiklejohn', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Meiklejohn  
Executive Officer

Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action.