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Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts




Green Loans Program

Briefing to Local Councils

May 2009


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Presentation

1. Program Overview
2. The Assessment Service
3. The Pilot (Trials)
4. The Detail
5. Questions

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Green Loans Program

- budget of \$175 million (not including loans)
- 5 year program (4 years of assessments)
- 360,000 assessments
- national roll-out 1 July 2009
- several thousand Assessors

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Key Points

- Australia's largest assessment program
- moving industry to new professionalism
 - education and ongoing training
 - technical support
 - national tools
 - auditing the quality of services

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The Service

- average 90 minutes in home, 120 minute slot
- household invited to do self assessment (limited)
- assessor visit
 - collects information for assessment software
 - provides free materials to household
 - discusses options with household
- household receives Assessment Report from Govt
- auditor to check work of assessor

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Independence

- must be free of commercial influence
- cannot discuss brands or product offers
- auditor checks independence

- can offer additional services
- role for councils to support additional services

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Additional Service

Rules are:

- must be free to households
 - e.g. installing CFLs, shower rose, draught proofing, ceiling insulation
- must be relevant (home sustainability)
- cannot detract from original service
- must not tie households to commercial outcomes
- must be approved by DEWHA

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Pilot (Trials)

- limited to 50 Assessors across all states
- 7 weeks of testing and feedback
- approx 3000 test assessments
- testing of:
 - Materials
 - Processes
 - Tools
- feedback to ABSA, QUT and UniSA

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Training & Qualification

- 3~4 day top-up course for experts
- longer course available for new players
- course materials provided free to RTOs
- instructor course free to RTOs
- development of national qualification

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Accreditation

- individual registration mandatory
- accrediting organisation must test:
 - “suitably qualified and experienced”
 - “fit and proper person to conduct services”
- contract is essential for payment by Govt
 - contract as individual, or
 - contract as organisation of assessors

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Maintaining Quality of Service

- minimum education and training
- compulsory CPD (free web based)
- Code of Professional Practise
- Assessor Procedures Manual
- free assessment software (creates Report)
- audit of service quality

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Promotion

- national campaign by Commonwealth
- expectation of Assessor self promotion
- communications guidance provided
- basic self promotion materials free
 - Postcard for letter box drops
 - Info brochure
- role for local councils

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End Product

What are we trying to do?

- empower household with knowledge
- create action plan to sustainable future
- provide access to low cost capital
 - interest free loans up to \$10,000
 - zero application fee
 - 8 financial partners and growing

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Thank You

- question time
- more information available from:

www.environment.gov.au/greenloans
