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## Economic Stimulus Package Program Changes Effective From 1 September 2009

Welcome to the sixth advisory note from the Energy Efficient Homes Package team with guidance on key issues relevant to the program. These notes are also available at [www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/insulation/installers/publications/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/insulation/installers/publications/index.html).

The Australian Government have released a report by the Coordinator - General on the Economic Stimulus Package.

The following is an extract relating to the insulation program:

While the Housing Insulation Program is proving to be very popular the Low Emission Assistance Plan for Renters (LEAPR) is experiencing much slower demand than expected.

The program's total allocation averages out at approximately \$6 million per week over 126 weeks, however actual demand is currently averaging about \$1 million per week. The factors limiting the take up of LEAPR are likely to include the split incentive between tenants and landlords – a pervasive barrier to energy efficiency uptake – and the lower subsidy compared to the Homeowner Insulation Program (HIP), which is also likely to drive installers to increasingly concentrate on the homeowner market.

The Government has decided that better outcomes can be achieved for tenants and landlords by closing the LEAPR program and more strategically targeting the split incentive issue. Landlords and renters who want to install insulation will be able to do so under the mainstream HIP – **with a maximum subsidy of \$1,600 rather than \$1,000 from 1 September 2009.**

The HIP will also be capped at its current appropriation. Since 1 July 2009, HIP has experienced increasing demand, partly due to intensive private sector advertising and the involvement of both large and small scale operators entering the sector.

In addition, the Government will continue to work closely with the social services sector to ensure low income households, including rental households, benefit from the Government's energy efficiency programs, including a new program to specifically assist low-income households to improve their energy efficiency. As this program is outside the scope of the Plan, details will be released separately. Discontinuing LEAPR will result in reduced funding of \$610 million to the program, in addition to \$10 million from a reduced public advertising campaign for the HIP.

The full report is available from: <http://www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au/pages/theplan.aspx>

Further information about the changes to the program and new frequently asked questions will be placed on the internet site early next week: [www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/insulation/installers](http://www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/insulation/installers).

**Your work is helping to reduce energy costs for householders, helps the environment, and makes Australian homes more comfortable.**

Energy Efficient Homes Team  
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
[www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency](http://www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency)

## Severe Storms

### What is a severe storm

There are two types of severe storms: thunderstorms and land gales.

- Thunderstorms can produce hail, wind gusts, flash floods, tornadoes, and, lightning which can cause death, injury and damage to property. Thunderstorms are more common and generally more dangerous than land gales.
- Land gales are simply gale force winds that occur over the land.

### Preparing Your Property For Severe Storms

#### 1 Check the condition of the roof

- repair loose tiles, sheets, eaves and roof screws;
- clean gutters and downpipes so water can drain away as quickly as possible; and
- trim trees and overhanging branches.

#### 2. Insurance

- ensure your home building insurance is current and covers your asset adequately; and
- check your policy includes debris clean up and disposal.

#### 3. Flood-prone areas

- consider an alternatives to carpet floor coverings;
- Consider relocating electrical sockets and power-points to well above floor level.

## Increase Your Investment Portfolio

**AUSTINS FERRY**

Situated in a popular location, is this spacious three bedroom (plus) home. Upon entering you are welcomed into a foyer which leads you through to the living area, with dining room off & a convenient breakfast bar or office area. The large lounge & separate kitchen enjoy views of Mt Wellington & the Derwent River, & a large entertainment deck provides a perfect place for alfresco entertaining. At the front of the home the main bedroom features walk-in robe & three piece ensuite. Downstairs are two double bedrooms, both with sliding door access to outside & built-in robes. The laundry & main bathroom with separate vanity, shower, bath & toilet are also downstairs. Another room under the house has the potential to be an office or play area for the kids. Outside offers established gardens with carport & auto roller door. Located next door to Polmena Reserve & only moments away from store, bus & boat ramp.

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Buyer Inquiry Range \$240,000 - \$300,000\*  
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Contact Stefanie Szymca 0407 497 271

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