



9 October 2014

Letters Editor
The Age
PO Box 257
Melbourne VIC 3001

By email: letters@theage.com.au

Dear Editors,

Re: MPs to decide fate of 2,000 green energy jobs (The Age, 09/10/2014)

The Age today reported that the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target scheme (VEET) supports 2,000 jobs. In addition, the VEET has helped over one million households lower their energy bills, including hundreds of thousands of disadvantaged Victorians. Low income households typically spend almost three times as much of their income on energy as average Victorian households, but often lack the ability to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. The VEET lowers up-front cost barriers of common lighting, heating, and weather sealing improvements, and recent analysis by the Brotherhood of St Laurence has demonstrated that relatively disadvantaged areas have received a greater total share of the scheme's benefits than advantaged areas. The VEET should be retained or improved not just to keep jobs, but to further help households lower their energy bills, particularly households that might otherwise be unable to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Benvenuti
Executive Officer,
Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre

Emma King
Chief Executive Officer,
Victorian Council of Social Service

Damien Moyse,
Policy & Research Manager,
Alternative Technology Association