



THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP
Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CUTTING ENERGY BILLS

The Turnbull Government is saving Australian households and businesses energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and lowering energy bills by increasing building and appliance energy efficiency.

The Government will lower the threshold of the Commercial Building Disclosure (CBD) Programme from 2,000 to 1,000 square meters, which will see an additional 1,000 commercial buildings now disclose their energy efficiency when they sell or lease their property. This will help inform purchasers and tenants of building energy costs, delivering more than \$50 million in energy savings, and around 3.5 million tonnes of emission reductions over five years. This change will commence 1 July 2017.

We have also amended the tenancy lighting assessment requirements so that from 1 September this year, building owners will only be required to undertake these assessments every five years instead of each year. This change adds to the more than \$4.5 billion of red tape the Coalition Government has cut from our economy.

These changes follow a comprehensive review of the CBD Programme and public consultation earlier this year which showed overwhelming support for the programme.

As Chair of the COAG Energy Council, the Coalition Government has also led the way in establishing new priorities for improving appliance efficiency through the Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) programme. Here, governments will pursue significant energy savings through six priority areas: lighting, non-domestic fans, swimming pool pumps, commercial refrigerated storage and display cabinets, air conditioning, and domestic fridges and freezers. These changes could save Australian households hundreds of dollars on their energy bills. For example, using energy rating labels on appliances like air conditioners will better inform consumers about appliance efficiency and could save an average household more than \$240 a year. Further, they could have substantial environmental benefits, potentially reducing greenhouse gas emissions by up to 29 million tonnes to 2030 and significantly reducing mercury content in fluorescent lamps.

These measures will make a significant contribution to the Coalition Government's target of increasing national energy productivity by 40 per cent between 2015 and 2030, with commercial buildings alone accounting for around 10 per cent of Australia's energy consumption. The continued implementation of our National Energy Productivity Plan will boost competitiveness, help energy consumers manage costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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