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Submission to Inquiry into the Energy Services Industry

Environment and Natural Resources Committee
 Victorian State Parliament
 October 2005

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
 RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SUBMISSION

NO. 11

Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA)

The Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action consists of the following members; Cities of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Whittlesea, Nillumbik Shire Council and the Moreland Energy Foundation. NAGA has been operating for 4 years to coordinate Councils' community based emission reduction activities and cooperate on innovative corporate emissions projects. NAGA contributes to the reduction of greenhouse emissions by:

- Identifying and implementing regional greenhouse reduction and education projects;
- Forming project specific partnerships;
- Sharing information and expertise, and;
- Advocating for appropriate policy and technology change.

NAGA has undertaken projects to deliver energy audits, retrofits and greenhouse reduction education projects to both the household and small business sectors. NAGA's experience through implementation of these projects is that a high proportion of the energy services sector have a low level of knowledge and practise in relation to energy efficiency products and measures.

NAGA Green Electricians Program

In response to the gap identified above, NAGA has developed a pilot project to deliver training to up to 50 electricians within the NAGA region. The project has received funding from Australian Greenhouse Office's CCP Community Abatement Assistance Program. The project will deliver information sessions for electrical contractors, trades and related services in the local government areas of Moreland, Hume, and Darebin. The sessions will educate participants about greenhouse issues and build their capacity to integrate energy efficiency advice into their services. The project will combine a series of introductory information seminars with an in-depth training session, and be supported by energy assessment technique tools and resources for ongoing reference.

The project will provide a practical case study to pilot development of training modules and accreditation for electrical tradespeople, and to assess potential to develop trade association structures similar to the 'Green Plumbers' initiative. The project will be completed by May 2006.

NAGA will work closely with Sustainability Victoria and TAFE Colleges in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the project, with a view to informing development of ongoing state-wide training courses and accreditation standards, and to integrate the outcomes into broader greenhouse abatement programs.

Addressing the Needs of the Energy Services Sector

NAGA's pilot project is an important first step in addressing energy efficiency shortcomings in a sector of the energy services industry, but broader, systemic change is also required.

NAGA supports the recommendations of the **Inquiry into Sustainable Communities**; and particularly, in relation to the energy services industry, recommendation 9.13, that 'Department of Sustainability and Environment, Sustainability Victoria, in cooperation with the housing and building industries, develop

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accreditation and performance standards for the installation of energy appliances and related fittings such as insulation, to ensure consumers are protected'.

NAGA recommends that the Victorian Government undertake a more detailed assessment of the needs of the energy services industry and address these through a variety of actions including the provision of greater support and assistance in the establishment and ongoing delivery of training and accreditation programs.

Further Information

For more information about NAGA and NAGA projects please contact:

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