

Triple Bottom Line Assessment

Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate

Expansion of the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme to the non-residential sector

Summary

Summary of Impacts

Expanding the EEIS to the small-to-medium enterprise (SME) sector, on balance, has a net positive impact and this assessment supports the proposal. Expanding the EEIS will support opportunities for small businesses to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures and may reduce scheme costs for participating electricity retailers.

Key to impacts: Red – negative, Amber neutral and Green Positive.

Social

Access to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SMEs are expected to have greater access to energy efficiency services as a result of expanding the EEIS.
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Disadvantaged and vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Priority households are targeted by the EEIS to the same level.
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Economic

ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Full expansion of the EEIS to the SME sector may require further resourcing of the Administrator. An opportunity exists for Energy Savings Contributions paid by Tier 2 electricity retailers under the EEIS to fund the administration of the EEIS from 2013/14.
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Productivity and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Will provide further opportunities for businesses in the ACT to develop and deliver innovative energy efficiency activities in the ACT while reducing energy costs for participating SMEs.
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Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">May encourage the development of new jobs delivering energy efficiency services in the non-residential sector.
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Small business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Will increase opportunities for small local businesses to participate in the EEIS and achieve energy savings.
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Skills and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">May increase the need for new and specialised skills in the ACT workforce and may require increased access to and/or the development of local training course supporting trades skills in energy efficiency and Health Safety and Environment standards.
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Investment and economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expanding the EEIS to the business sector is expected to increase the total Net Present Value of the Scheme.
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Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will increase the ability of smaller Tier 2 retailers, who mainly have non-residential customers, to participate in the Scheme rather than paying the contribution fee, while noting that retailers only with large or government electricity customers will still be limited in their participation.
Cost of living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total pass through costs associated with the EEIS are expected to decrease over time as a result of the expansion. • Energy savings achieved in the residential sector may decrease. • As the priority household target will remain the same, total savings in low-income households should not be impacted.

Environmental

Greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The distribution of greenhouse gas savings across the ACT economy may change, but the total targeted greenhouse gas savings are not impacted.
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