

MEDIA RELEASE

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South Australia leads on flexible homes in new Scorecard, but recent REPS changes weaken scores for efficiency and electrification

South Australia has ranked fourth overall in the Energy Efficiency Council's inaugural **State Energy Performance Policy Scorecard**, which provides the first national comparison of household energy performance policy settings across all eight states and territories.

The **State Energy Performance Policy Scorecard** assesses how governments are helping households reduce energy bills, improve comfort and resilience, and benefit from energy efficiency, electrification and demand flexibility. It shows that some Australian households are far better supported than others to cut energy use, lower bills, improve comfort and participate in the energy transition.

South Australia is a national leader on demand flexibility, but its energy efficiency and electrification scores have been affected by recent changes to the Retailer Energy Productivity Scheme (REPS), which are expected to reduce the scheme's capacity to deliver meaningful household upgrades.

South Australia's strongest performance is in demand flexibility, supported by substantial Virtual Power Plant deployment, incentives for flexible technologies and requirements for demand-responsive appliances.

The next opportunities for South Australia are to:

- strengthen REPS targets so incentives reach more households
- develop a gas phase-out roadmap
- implement rental energy efficiency and electrification standards
- introduce home energy rating disclosure at point of sale or lease.

The scorecard finds the Australian Capital Territory is the strongest overall performer, followed by Victoria and New South Wales. Victoria ranks first on electrification, while New South Wales and South Australia rank equal first on demand flexibility. Queensland and the Northern Territory rank seventh and eighth overall, with major policy gaps across household electrification, energy efficiency and flexible demand.

Energy Efficiency Council CEO Luke Menzel said the scorecard should be seen first as a household cost-of-living, health and comfort story, not a technical policy exercise.

Luke Menzel, CEO of the Energy Efficiency Council, said:

"The EEC has run the ruler over the policies that Australia's states and territories have in place to help households cut their energy bills."

"We developed a robust methodology, gathered the evidence, and rated each and every jurisdiction for their energy efficiency, electrification and energy flexibility policies and programs."

"So, what is the TL;DR? ACT, Victoria and NSW have topped the league table, South Australia is somewhere in the middle, and WA, Queensland and Tasmania right down the bottom."

"No jurisdiction is perfect – there is room for improvement across the board. But these findings show there is an urgent need for some states to step up their efforts in supporting households to respond to the cost-of-living crisis."

Justin Whelan, Manager, Consumer Advocacy of Energy Consumers Australia, said:

"Consumers should pay a fair price for their energy, no matter where they live. Electrification and energy efficiency policies mean lower energy bills for Australians – it is that simple."

"This scorecard shows where governments across Australia can supercharge electrification and energy efficiency policies to deliver financial, health and environmental benefits for all households and small businesses."

Strong consumer energy performance policy brings together energy efficiency, electrification and demand flexibility. These measures can help households use less energy, move away from expensive and volatile fossil fuels, and shift electricity use to times when renewable energy is abundant and lower cost.

- Households that switch to electric appliances and vehicles, alongside efficiency upgrades, could save up to \$2,250 a year.
- Around 70 per cent of Australia's 11 million existing homes were built before minimum energy efficiency standards were introduced.
- Improving a home from 3 to 5 stars could cut heating and cooling energy needs by around 40 per cent.
- More than 2 million rental homes in Australia are in jurisdictions without minimum and enforceable energy efficiency requirements.

The scorecard uses publicly available information to assess policy ambition, implementation and equity outcomes across electrification, energy efficiency and demand flexibility.

The EEC will continue to engage constructively with governments, industry and consumer advocates to support stronger household energy performance policy across Australia.

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This project was funded by Energy Consumers Australia as part of its Grants Program to support consumer advocacy and research projects that benefit of household and small business consumers. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of Energy Consumers Australia.

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Notes to Editors / Additional Resources

- The State Energy Performance Policy Scorecard has been shared under embargo.
- The State Energy Performance Policy Scorecard assesses policies affecting households only. Future editions may consider other sectors of Australia's economy.
- The scorecard compares state and territory policy settings across electrification, energy efficiency and demand flexibility.
- Approved spokespeople include Luke Menzel, CEO of the Energy Efficiency Council; Jeremy Sung, Head of Policy of the Energy Efficiency Council; Rob McLeod, Senior Policy Advisor of Energy Efficiency Council; and Justin Whelan, Manager, Consumer Advocacy of Energy Consumers Australia.
- Case studies are available upon request for selected jurisdictions, including Victoria and Queensland.

About the Energy Efficiency Council

The Energy Efficiency Council (EEC) is the national peak body for energy management, energy efficiency and electrification in Australia. The EEC works with government, businesses and industry leaders to accelerate the transition to a clean, efficient and productive net zero economy through policy, advocacy, research and capacity building.

Find out more: www.eec.org.au.