



# Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney

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25 May 2009

Dear Minister and Wardens,

## **Government Assistance for Environmental Measures**

In March 2009 the Property Trust sought written advice from the Australian Government's Department of Environment about the extent to which the government's, "Energy Efficient Homes Package" would be applicable to houses that are owned by the Property Trust and which are held in trust for Anglican parishes within the Diocese of Sydney (particularly ministry housing). We have now received the Australian government's response.

The Department of the Environment has noted that the Australian government's "Energy Efficient Homes Package" contains measures for free home ceiling insulation or assistance with the cost of home solar hot water installation. While not guaranteeing that all applications will be successful, the Department has encouraged eligible households to apply.

A summary of the advice received from the Department follows –

- Under the Low Emissions Assistance Plan for Renters, each Church owned house may be eligible for insulation assistance up to \$1,000 (any additional cost would therefore be the responsibility of the parish);
- Between 3 February 2009 and 1 July 2009 eligible households may seek reimbursement up to \$1,000 for eligible works undertaken during that period;
- Church properties may be eligible for the Solar Hot Water rebate; and
- The Energy Efficient Homes Package, formally commences on 1 July 2009 and will conclude in December 2011.

To find out more about the Australian government's Energy Efficient Homes Package and to download an application form, please go to the Department of Environment website – [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au) or ring the Department's call centre - 1800 808 571.

The NSW Government Department of Environment has a number of initiatives that may also provide various rebates for which "Church" property may be eligible. To find out more, please contact the NSW Department of Environment via their webpage – [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au) or phone – 1300 361 967.

Links to both the abovementioned government websites and other environmental resources, can be found on the Environment webpage of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat – [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au) [*"For Wardens & Parish Councillors" → "Property" → "Environment"*].

Your ACPT regional manager is ready to provide assistance with Energy Efficient Homes Package applications (and other property-related government grant, rebate or land use applications) –

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**South Sydney, and  
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Upon the written request of the parish Wardens, your ACPT regional manager will supply a letter that confirms legal ownership details, and that also expresses support for applications made by the Wardens in respect of properties held in trust for your parish.

Yours sincerely



**Greg Ellem**  
HEAD OF PARISH PROPERTY  
Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney