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Victorian Energy Efficiency and Productivity Statement Shows Promise

The Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre (CUAC) welcomes the release of the Victorian Government's Energy Efficiency and Productivity Statement – *Saving Energy, Growing Jobs*. The Government's commitment to a stable, long-term approach across portfolios shows leadership in attracting jobs and investment to Victoria, relieving cost pressures, and improving wellbeing.

Measures to rate the energy efficiency of homes and to help fund efficiency improvements for the most needy could have strong benefits. CUAC encourages the Government to be ambitious in its implementation to realise these benefits. Going beyond information provision to offer facilitation services and introduce minimum efficiency standards will decrease the number of households experiencing financial or health problems caused by energy poverty.

"Mandatory energy efficiency ratings and minimum standards mean Victorians won't end up buying or renting cold, drafty homes that eat up the family budget with excessive energy bills," said Mercedes Lentz, CUAC's Executive Officer.

"Housing that puts people into energy stress should be a thing of the past."

CUAC supports the focus on existing, proven measures and trusted providers, including measures that improve consumer choice and those that integrate energy efficiency with other services. Fair access to energy is essential for ensuring Victorians can participate in the social and economic wellbeing of the state.

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