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GEMS Review team
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To Whom It May Concern

GREENHOUSE AND ENERGY MINIMUM STANDARDS - REVIEW OF ACT

The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) supports the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) Act and the Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) Program, which delivers harmonised efficiency standards and labelling for equipment and appliances.

ASBEC is a body of peak organisations committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia, with membership consisting of industry and professional associations, non-government organisations and government observers who are involved in the planning, design, delivery and operation of our built environment. Collectively, ASBEC's membership has direct reach to more 350,000 professionals in the built environment sector and represents an industry worth more than \$700 billion in value.

Buildings contribute to over half of Australia's electricity consumption and almost a quarter of our country's emissions. The building sector presents a profound and cost-effective opportunity for energy productivity and emissions reductions. *Low Carbon, High Performance*, authored for ASBEC by ClimateWorks shows how Australia's built environment sector is uniquely placed to become a global market leader in energy and sustainability, with buildings presenting low cost opportunities to deliver almost \$20 billion in energy savings as well as significant emissions reduction and other benefits. The built environment could also help to meet over half of the current National Energy Productivity Plan target, and more than one quarter of the national emissions target.

Low Carbon, High Performance outlines a holistic suite of policies to address existing barriers and accelerate actions, including **setting strong mandatory minimum standards** for buildings, equipment and appliances, and the establishment of a forward trajectory for future standards. The report finds that improvements in the efficiency of appliances and equipment could deliver \$8 billion in energy savings nationally and 71 megatons in emissions reductions to 2030. A targeted suite of policies would be required to unlock this opportunity, including improving appliance and equipment minimum energy performance standards.

Mandatory minimum standards for appliances are a highly effective mechanism to overcome low motivation amongst many consumers to choose energy efficient appliances and equipment, even where these deliver financial returns over the life of the product.

The 2015 review of the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) program provided a compelling summary of the evidence of how effective and financially rewarding mandatory minimum standards for equipment can be. The 2015 review noted that Australian standards currently lag behind other countries and behind technological developments, and recommended the expansion of coverage and stringency of mandatory minimum standards for equipment and appliances, and improvements to the process for updating standards to accelerate updates and better align with international standards.

ASBEC strongly supports the implementation of the recommendations of the GEMS review to expand, strengthen and accelerate future improvements in minimum equipment and appliance standards. Additionally, a forward trajectory for mandatory minimum standards for appliances and equipment should also be established.

Yours Sincerely



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Executive Director