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Media Release

Consumers to be hit with price increases on lighting due to Fed Government planned regulations

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Low income earners, pensioners and others on fixed incomes will bear the brunt of price increases for lighting that will flow from new regulations being formulated for the lighting industry by the Federal Department of the Environment according to the industry's peak body, Lighting Council Australia.

CEO Richard Mulcahy described the changes as "lacking commercial sense with an expected impact on the lighting industry of around \$80 million over ten years".

"We shall inevitably see jobs go with this impost – despite lighting being one of Australia's few viable manufacturing industries.

"The Environment Department is attempting to impose the most aggressive lighting regulations in the world on the Australian industry despite the ferocious competition we are facing from other markets – particularly China.

"For a government that claims to be committed to deregulation these measures run in the opposite direction.

"There is a marked lack of enforcement in relation to non-compliant imported products yet Federal bureaucrats keep dreaming up new rules to impose on Australian manufacturers.

"We have no problem with measures that will deliver energy savings for Australian households but the proposals being put forward go way beyond energy savings and will only serve to hurt Australian industry.

"Federal officials blame the State governments for the lack of compliance enforcement and have little regard for the adverse impacts their measures will have on Australian companies," Mr Mulcahy said.

Measures being developed will soon be considered by State and Territory Energy Ministers through COAG.

"We can only hope that State Governments will realise the foolishness of these measures and call a halt to Federal plans.

"When you impose an \$80 million impost on a \$2 billion industry there will inevitably be adverse consequences. Prices will have to be increased and jobs in a number of

manufacturers will go as our members try to grapple with the cumbersome new regulations,” Mr Mulcahy said.

Mr Mulcahy said that the industry would be raising their concerns with all political parties at the Federal level and State and Territory governments in coming weeks.

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