

## **Decision pending regarding future of lighting upgrades covered by Victorian Energy Upgrades programme.**

Illuminations Article

The Victorian Energy Upgrade schemes provides financial incentives for home and building owners to improve their energy efficiency. This scheme facilitates 'give-away' and cheap light bulbs to homes and businesses.

The scheme costs around \$200 Million per year to run and those costs are passed on to all electricity users as higher prices. In recent years, a consistent trend has been that over 85 per cent of certificates created by the scheme have been non-residential upgrades for commercial properties. Last year only 4% of Victorian homes participated in the scheme.

The scheme is raising electricity costs, encouraging fraudulent activity, facilitating poor quality lighting outcomes and paying for upgrades that would have occurred regardless of the incentive

Earlier this year Lighting Council Australia raised these concerns in a submission to the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) Lighting Issues paper which proposed the curtailment of many lighting activities covered by the scheme. A decision regarding the future of lighting upgrades facilitated through the Victorian Energy Upgrades Scheme is now pending and can be expected by the end of the month.

Lighting Council Australia has advocated for the removal of lighting upgrades covered by the VEU since 2015 and has recently raised concerns in writing to all Victorian members of parliament as well as by organising face to face meetings with the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning and the Victorian Minister for Energy The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio- who oversees the governance of the scheme.