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# Media Release

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## **Victorians Paying Top Dollar for Electricity Due to Lighting Upgrades**

The Victorian Energy Upgrades Scheme (VEU) provides financial assistance for home and building owners to improve their energy efficiency. The scheme costs around \$200 Million per year to run and those costs are passed on to all electricity users as higher prices.

“Lighting upgrades have accounted for more than 90 percent of the scheme over the last ten years. That may have made sense when LED prices were relatively high. However, LEDs now dominate the market, prices are comparable and it simply makes no sense to keep lighting in the scheme.” says Lighting Council Australia Public Affairs & Environmental Manager, Brodie Easton

“This scheme is raising electricity prices, facilitating poor lighting outcomes, paying for upgrades that would have occurred regardless and providing assistance for unsustainable jobs and business models.

VEU claims it supports over 2,200 local jobs. However, some of those are attracted by the lure of an easy dollar and are rorting the system.

Also, VEU practitioners would not be disadvantaged by a free market approach”, said Mr. Easton. He added, “Hundreds of Victorian jobs within reputable lighting businesses have already been lost directly due to VEU”.

Mr Easton added, “Supporters of the scheme claim that it is helping all Victorian households save on their energy bills. The problem is that in 2018 only around 4% of Victorian homes participated in the scheme meaning that households are now funding commercial and industrial property upgrades”.

Lighting Council Australia, the peak body for Australia’s lighting industry, is calling for the Victorian government to put an end to this unnecessary lighting assistance program that is costing Victorians hundreds of millions in increased energy costs.

**ENDS.**

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