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30 August 2023

The Honourable Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Level 16, 8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Dear Minister D'Ambrosio,

We are writing on behalf of Healthy Homes for Renters, a coalition of organisations committed to improving the living conditions for renters across Australia. We have been closely monitoring the development of the 'National Framework for Minimum Rental Requirements', a project that we believe is crucial for ensuring the wellbeing of renters nationwide.

The Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action has been coordinating this significant initiative on behalf of federal, state, and territory governments, with an initial timeline set for the establishment of the Framework in mid-2022. However, it is now over twelve months later and we are yet to see any signs of this or even receive regular updates on the status of the Framework.

We understand the complexities involved in coordinating such a project across multiple jurisdictions, and we appreciate the role that Victoria is playing in managing this. However, we are concerned about the lack of communication with stakeholders, particularly given the importance of this Framework to the lives of many Australians. Earlier in the process, stakeholder consultation meetings were held, but these have ceased without any update or explanation, leaving us in the dark about the progress and potential delays in the development of the Framework.

Everyone should have a healthy home

The delays in the development and implementation of the Framework are not just procedural issues; they have real-world implications for renters across Australia. Many are living in substandard, inefficient homes, leading to poor health outcomes due to indoor cold and higher energy costs. With energy bills on the rise, the urgency of this issue cannot be overstated. The Framework is a critical step towards addressing these challenges and ensuring that all Australians have access to safe, comfortable, and affordable housing.

While we understand that Victoria may not be directly responsible for these delays, we believe that your position as the Energy Minister of Victoria provides you with a unique opportunity to advocate for more urgency and transparency in the development of the Framework. Your influence could potentially help to expedite the process and ensure that other jurisdictions are held accountable for their contributions.

We kindly request that you use your influence to push for more urgent action on the Framework and to facilitate better communication with stakeholders about the progress and any potential delays. We believe that this will not only benefit renters across Australia but also demonstrate Victoria's leadership in advocating for the rights and well-being of all Australians.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We as co-signatories request acknowledgement of this correspondence and a response to the issues raised; we look forward to your response and to seeing progress on the 'National Framework for Minimum Rental Requirements'.

Yours sincerely,

ANIKA Legal, Asthma Australia, Australian Conservation Foundation, Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, Better Renting, Beyond Zero Emissions, Climate and Health Alliance, Climate Justice Union, Combined Pensioners & Superannuants Association, Community Power Agency, Conservation Council ACT, COTA WA, Council of Single Mothers and Their Children, Darwin Community Legal Service, Energetic Communities, Financial Counsellors' Association of Western Australia, Friends of the Earth, Healthy Futures, Housing for Health Incubator, Indigenous Peoples' Organisation of Australia, National Shelter, NTCOSS, Older Women's Network NSW, Renew, Shelter NSW, Solar Citizens, South Australian Financial Counsellors Association, Sydney Alliance, TUNSW, Uniting Church of Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania), Uniting Communities, Yarra Energy Foundation, and Your Community Health.

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Signatory organisations



Anika
Legal



**ASTHMA
AUSTRALIA**



**AUSTRALIAN
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION**



**AUSTRALIAN
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CJU
CLIMATE JUSTICE UNION



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council of
single mothers
and their
children



**Darwin Community
LEGAL SERVICE**



ENERGETIC COMMUNITIES
SOWING A COMMON THREAD



**FINANCIAL COUNSELLORS' ASSOCIATION
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



**Friends of
the Earth
Australia**



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Uniting



**YARRA
ENERGY
FOUNDATION**



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

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