

Lowering Household Bills

Many Tasmanians are struggling with cost of living pressures, and soaring bills are a significant part of this. Our plan will help households potentially save hundreds of dollars on water bills, and over a thousand dollars on power bills.

In 2023, over half of Tasmanians had to reach into their savings to pay for cost of living expenses, and a quarter had to substantially deplete their savings.¹

Power bills make a significant contribution to these pressures. In 2022, the average power bill increased by roughly \$200,² and again by \$210 in 2023.³

Energy Efficiency in Rentals

Tasmania currently lags behind other jurisdictions when it comes to minimum energy efficiency standards in rental properties.

Older single flush toilets can use 12 litres a flush⁴, compared to 3.5-4 litres for a 3-star toilet.⁵ An upgrade to a 3.5 litre toilet can save a family of four \$148 a year on water bills.⁶ Upgrading to a 3-star shower head can save a family \$210 a year.⁷

Upgrading from 1 to 2-star heating and cooling fixtures would save 30% of a renter's heating and cooling costs.⁸

Our plan is to introduce Victoria's energy efficiency standards in Tasmania. This would require any fixtures and appliances that come with a property and uses or supplies water, electricity or gas, to be upgraded to meet minimum efficiency standards when they are replaced.

These standards are reasonable. In most cases they require a 3-star rating under the WELS scheme for water appliances, and a 2-star rating under AS/NZS standards for heating electrical appliances. Exemptions would apply, including if circumstances make it cost prohibitive.

We will move to introduce minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties.

Solar on Public Housing

Public housing tenants are some of the hardest hit by cost of living pressures and rising power prices. People shouldn't have to choose between freezing in the winter, and putting food on the table.

¹ Seeder, B, [Living pressures 'dire' in Tasmania as rising costs bite: survey](#), The Examiner, December 2023.

² MacDonald, L, [Power prices across Tasmania to increase by about \\$200 per year](#), ABC News, Jun 2022.

³ TasCOSS, [Energy price hike the latest blow to Tasmanian households at breaking point](#), 2023.

⁴ Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water, [Households](#), Australian Government.

⁵ WELS, [Water Rating Product Search](#), Australian Government.

⁶ Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water, [Households](#), Australian Government.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Department of Premier and Cabinet, [Star Ratings Guide](#), Tasmanian Government, n.d.

Public housing could and should be built to ensure that the cost of heating is not unaffordable. A 6kw rooftop solar system can save about \$1,200 off a power bill per year.⁹

We will fight for all new public housing builds to be fitted with rooftop solar, and for existing public housing to be retrofitted with rooftop solar.

Energy Efficiency Grants

With power prices continuing to increase,¹⁰ renewed investment in household energy efficiency programs for low income households is urgently needed.

Rooftop solar and thermal proofing homes can save thousands on power bills. In a cost of living and climate crisis, this is money well spent many times over.

Tackling household energy costs through a large-scale energy efficiency roll-out to low income households will help to alleviate the increasingly severe cost of living pressures.

We will fight for a grants program for energy efficiency upgrades of up to \$2,000 for 2,500 low-income household each year.

Budget (\$m)

(\$m)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Rental Standards	-	-	-	-	-
Solar Upgrades	10.44	10.44	10.44	10.44	41.76
Efficiency Grants	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	20.00
Total	15.44	15.44	15.44	15.44	61.76

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⁹ [Solar Power Calculator](#), nd.

¹⁰ Aurora Energy, [Tasmanian Energy Prices](#), 2023.