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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy and Renewables

Delivering cost-of-living relief to Tasmanians

The Tasmanian Government understands that there is no more important issue facing Tasmanians currently than the cost-of-living.

That is why we acted swiftly earlier this year with our targeted Energy Assistance Package.

This was a multi-pronged response which included our \$180 Winter Bill Buster payments, our \$50 million Energy Saver Loan Scheme and the removal of the fee to access Aurora+, in addition to the \$1 million of additional funds allocated to Aurora's hardship program in August this year bringing the total funds to \$2.7 million.

Our Winter Bill Buster payment of \$119 in addition to the concession increase of \$61 was designed to provide real relief to those in our community who need it most.

Approximately 94,230 Winter Bill Buster payments have been made to Tasmanian concession customers, including those on embedded networks, at total cost to the Government of \$11.2 million.

In addition, our \$50 million Energy Saver Loan Scheme is designed to assist customers and businesses reduce their energy costs and use by providing no interest loans of up to \$10,000 for a period of three years for items such as solar and battery systems, double glazing as well as high efficiency reverse cycle heat pumps.

Since the commencement of the Scheme on 17 October there have been 183 applications of which 138 have been approved and 80 vendors are registered with Brighte to supply the products and services.