

# Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement (Priority Household) Determination 2020

Disallowable instrument DI2020-255

made under the

Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012, s7A (Priority households)

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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### Introduction

This explanatory statement relates to the Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement (Priority Household) Determination 2020 (the Determination). It has been prepared in order to assist the reader of the Determination. It does not form part of the Determination and has not been endorsed by the Assembly.

This explanatory statement clarifies the intent of the Determination and must be read in conjunction with the Determination. It is not, and is not intended to be, a comprehensive description of the Determination. What is written about a provision is not to be taken as an authoritative guide to the meaning of a provision, this being a task for the courts.

### Overview

The *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012* (the Act) requires electricity retailers to achieve energy savings in households and small-to-medium enterprises. It is a key mechanism for delivering on the ACT's emission reduction targets by helping households and businesses reduce emissions and energy costs. The Objects of the Act are to:-

- a) encourage the use of energy efficiency;
- b) reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use in the Territory;
- c) reduce household and business energy use and costs; and
- d) increase opportunities for priority households to reduce energy use and costs.

The purpose of the Determination is to describe priority households. The definition of priority households has previously been described in the Act and in regulation. Section 7 of the *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Amendment Act 2019* (the Amendment Act) inserts new section 7A into the Act. Section 7A of the Act stipulates that the Minister must determine priority households for the Act in a determination which is a disallowable instrument. Section 7 of the Amendment Act will commence on 1 January 2021.

Defining priority households in a Disallowable Instrument provides the Minister flexibility to review, add or remove eligible classes of households to the scheme and respond to community feedback in a timely manner, in order to increase opportunities to reduce energy use. The Determination supports the operation of the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS).

The Determination is a disallowable instrument described under the *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012, s7A* (Priority households).

**Clause 1** names the instrument.

**Clause 2** indicates the time of commencement.

**Clause 3** determines the prescription of priority households to be defined as they are described in Schedule 1 to the instrument.