



Petition

Registration No.	5
Title	Reinstate the Home Improvement Scheme
Presented on	30 November 2016
Presented by	Mr Higgins (Member for Daly)
Referred to	Treasurer (Hon Nicole Manison MLA)
Date referred	30 November 2016
Response due	3 May 2017
Response received	21 March 2017
Response presented	22 March 2017

Petition

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

This petition of concerned residents of the Northern Territory Draws to the attention of the House: That the Government's decision to scrap the Home Improvement Scheme as of October 2016 is unfair and unwise. The \$20m scheme provided a \$2,000 voucher to hard working families and a direct cash flow to local businesses. This was a targeted stimulus to the local economy.

We therefore ask the House to: Support Jobs and assist 10,000 Territory families, Tradies and Local Small Businesses by immediately reinstating the Home Improvement Scheme.

Response

- The Government has listened to the ongoing concerns of the community and has invested an additional \$15 million in an improved Home Improvement Scheme with applications for vouchers open from 20 February 2017.
- The re-launched Home Improvement Scheme is expected to inject more than \$60 million into the Territory economy and will run until 3, December 2017, unless funding is exhausted earlier. Between 3750 and 7500 Territory homeowners are expected to access the new Scheme.
- Under the improved Home Improvement Scheme, homeowner occupiers are able to access a voucher of up to \$4000, on a co- contribution basis, which will go towards engaging small Territory businesses to undertake work on their homes. Homeowners who previously received a voucher can receive a second voucher of up to \$2000.
- Importantly, subcontracting is now permitted to other eligible Territory small businesses, which means that tradies can get work from other tradies. It also means that homeowners will be able to undertake broader works under the scheme with less red tape

- Other changes include allowing up to 50 per cent of the voucher to be put towards the cost of goods and materials, which better reflects the nature of many home renovations, and integrity measures, such as site spot audits to ensure compliance.
- The Government remains committed to ensuring its housing assistance and other economic stimulus effectively supports the needs of Territorians and the business community.
- The improved Home Improvement Scheme is expected to complement other policy initiatives of the Government, including responding to the need to support jobs and the economy by fast-tracking \$120 million worth of infrastructure projects, strengthening Buy-Local initiatives and releasing a \$22 million Immediate Works Stimulus Package. This Stimulus Package will fund a range of projects across varying sectors and directly benefit businesses and the community with grants of up to \$200 000 to repair and upgrade facilities.
- The Government also increased first home owner stamp duty relief of up to \$24 000 for established homes. From September 2016 to February 2017, about 280 first home buyers have received the Government's increased stamp duty relief.
- These first home buyers will also each have access to \$10 000 as a grant to undertake renovations, repairs and improvements on their homes, including up to \$2000 for purchasing household goods from local retailers. To date, about 120 applications have been submitted and \$12 million in first home renovations are underway.