NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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Freen rating backflip

running costs for families."

mitment to cutting red tape. restated the government's commade on energy ratings but that no final decision had been man, Paul Price, said last night A Baillieu government spokes-

standards for "all new homes". well as higher energy efficiency tial and commercial buildings as the 6-star standard for residen-Coalition promised support for In its 2010 election policy, the

government and households Labor estimated the cost for upgrades to 1.46 million homes. by 2020. This would require homes to an average of five stars energy efficiency of all Victorian stso committed to boosting the Both Labor and the Coalition

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A Treasury attachment to the ult of reduced electricity bills.

But the Gillard government the impact of the carbon price. efficiency measures "duplicate" Wells letter argues that energy

energy efficiency. secretary for climate change and Mark Dreytus, parliamentary Baillieu has it wrong again," said has dismissed the claim. "Ted

unnecessarily high day-to-day poorer housing stock with government will be locking in the 6-star rating, the Baillieu Mr Dreyfus said. "By scrapping are more comfortable to live in," use energy more efficiently and on their bills with houses that holds save thousands of dollars new homes will help house-"Six-star energy ratings for

> \$715 million reduction in red lieu, and which is seeking a which includes Premier Ted Baility committee of cabinet --

> port for the 6-star standard. dates the Coalition policy of supenergy savings. The report preresources than it delivers in ings may cost more in building build houses with higher star ratargued that "forcing" people to report from July 2010, which on a Master Builders Association The proposal draws heavily

cost is baid back quickly as a resenergy standards argue that the home. Supporters of mandatory about \$5000 for an average ory standard is estimated at from a 5-star to 6-star mandat-The additional cost of moving

> July 2014. ment red tape by 25 per cent by as part of a bid to cut governand having signed up to a of the 6-star standard in Victoria

ou consumer demand and "the The standard would be based choose an appropriate standard". scheme that enables builders to a voluntary thermal efficiency "consideration could be given to alternative to the current system, Mr Wells wrote that, as an

each property. building costs combination" for optimal energy efficiency versus

competitiveness and productive request was on behalf of the Mr Wells wrote that his

national 6-star code last year.

roof, floors, walls and windows. major renovations including the structure of all new homes and ciency measures for the ritories, requires energy effinow applies in all states and ter-The 6-star standard, which

for toilet flushing. water system or rainwater tank installation of either a solar hot ing and, in Victoria, requires the It also sets standards for light-

him to detail a plan for removal Minister Matthew Guy asking urer kim Wells wrote to Planning But last month state Treas-

NOTROM MAGA bns By ROYCE MILLAR Baillieu may scrap 6-star energy rules

Age reveal the government wants Documents obtained by The before the Baillieu government. under a contentious proposal Victoria could soon be scrapped new homes and renovations in MANDATORY energy ratings for

cutting government red tape. as part of its broader agenda for ciency requirements for houses to abandon 6-star thermal effi-

port the energy rating system, before the 2010 election to sup-Coalition having promised The plan comes despite the

Backflip on green rating

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would be \$7.6 billion, but benefits from reduced energy and water bills would be worth \$11.52 billion. Environment and welfare groups say the Coalition has done nothing to begin meeting the goal for existing homes.

If implemented, the proposal to abandon compulsory energy ratings would be the latest in a series of reversals on climate change-related commitments by the Baillieu government.

Before the 2010 poll it backed the legislated target of a 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and criticised Labor for not doing enough to promote solar power. In power, the Coalition has dumped the greenhouse target and has cut the solar feed-in tariff by more than half.

In opposition the Coalition also supported a carbon price as the best way to cut emissions, but in government it has campaigned aggressively against the Gillard government scheme.

Alternative Technology Association chief Ian Porter said it was "ludicrous" to think consumers could make their own energy efficiency assessments. "This sort of approach seems to reflect an ideological opposition to any sort of environmental regulation at all," he said.

Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews described the move as a "one-star decision from a no-star government... This will be bad news for jobs and even worse news for household energy bills."

In the attachment to Mr Wells' letter, Treasury notes that the public may view the ditching of the 6-star rating as "a dilution of Victoria's building standards". It says "appropriate communications" could make it clear that safety and construction standards would not be affected.

Got a tip?

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