



Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation
Productivity Commission
LB2 Collins Street East
Melbourne Vic 8003

Dear Sir/Madam,

We note that households are mentioned several times in the draft report as being important potential sites of climate change adaptation. Households are increasingly a target of government sustainability and climate change policies, with varying degrees of success. Part of the problem is black boxing, in which the inherent complexity and diversity of households tends to be taken for granted. Our research into households and sustainability offers two particular insights of relevance to the inquiry.

First, we have developed a **connected household framework**, which helps think through the barriers to, and opportunities for, involving households in climate change adaptation. The attached paper, 'Zones of friction, zones of traction: the connected household in climate change and sustainability policy' provides full details of this framework, including a number of examples. (The paper is currently in submission with a refereed journal, and we request that it be treated at the moment as commercial-in-confidence. Full publication on the Productivity Commission website could compromise the review process.) The connected household framework uses the themes of *governance*, *materiality* and *practice* to illustrate and explain the ways everyday life, and the internal politics of households, are connected to wider systems of provision and socioeconomic networks. The paper introduces *zones of friction* and *zones of traction* to illustrate different pathways of connection. Friction and traction can help decision-makers think through the possibilities and constraints of working at the household scale.

Second, our research on **sustainable household capability** uses survey results to identify which households are already doing 'their bit' in terms of sustainability. The attached paper, 'Sustainable Household Capability: which households are doing the work of environmental sustainability?' has recently been published in the *Australian Geographer* and is in the public domain. We draw your particular attention to the finding that lower income households are already doing more sustainability work than affluent households.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your work, and we would be happy to provide any more detailed information from our research.

Professor Lesley Head, Dr Carol Farbotko, Professor Chris Gibson, Dr Nick Gill and
Professor Gordon Waitt

Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER)
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