

Reviewing the SHCP Numbers

On the 2nd of August, Minister Garrett released figures on the SHCP applications received around the time of the 2008/2009 Federal budget. Several of our staff were at the recent AATRA conference in Melbourne where these figures were announced.

Week ending	18 April	25 April	2 May	9 May	16 May*	23 May	30 May	6 June	13 June	20 June	27 June	4 July	11 July	18 July	25 July
Applications Received	338	239	448	388	493	445	375	374	370	565	794	713	448	575	563

* Budget Week

Figure 1 - Solar Rebate Applications

In addition to this, a graph was shown that outlined the weekly figures over the last 12 months.

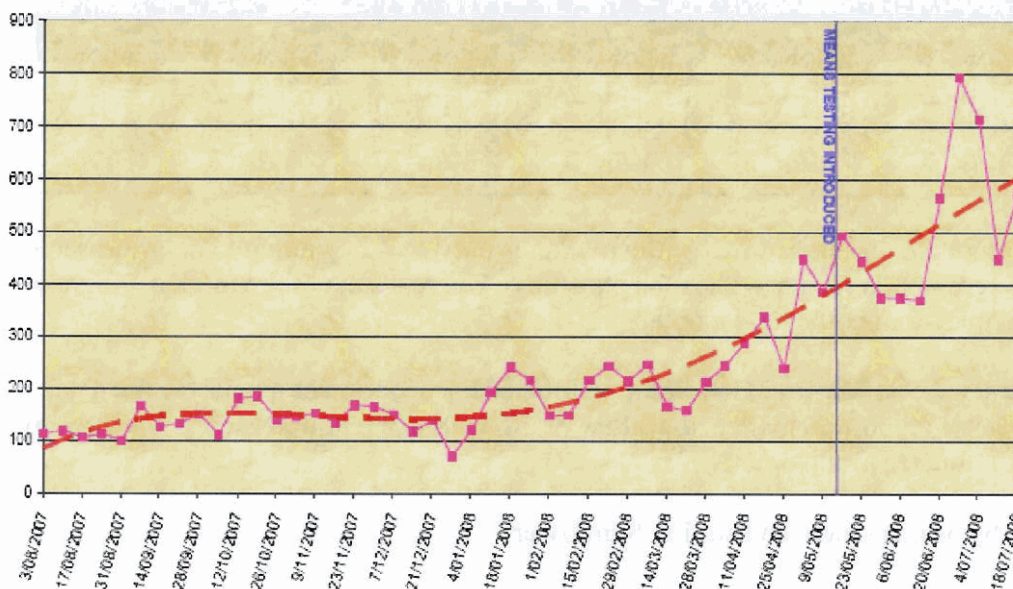


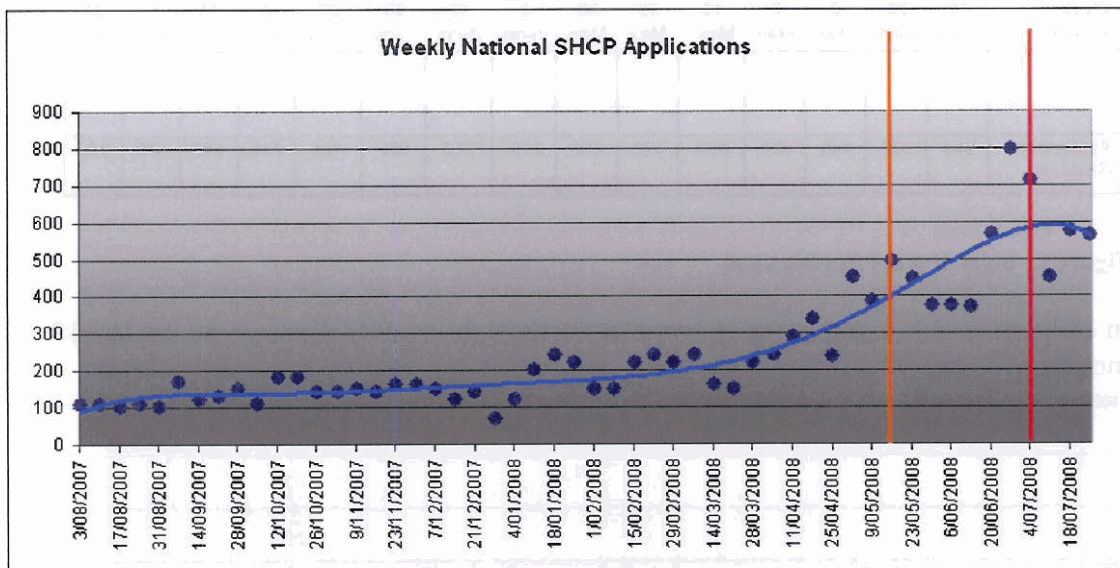
Figure 2 - SHCP Pre-approval Applications received per week, Aug 2007 - Present

There are several problems with this information:

1. Was the means test applied to the SHCP rebate a failure? The trend line would appear to show an uninterrupted growth in applications.
2. The most recent data point, 25th July, is included in the table but is not graphed. This clearly influences the trend line, making it appear steeper than it should.
3. The peak in applications in late June, early July is due to recent bulk applications from regional buyers groups and does not reflect normal market conditions.
4. SHCP applications take 6-8 weeks to process, which has delayed the impact of the means test. Dealers have reported that they are still waiting on approvals lodged in May.

- If rebates are being approved at this rate, then we have 3 months of funds left in the program – then what?

A correct assessment of the statistics would take into account the rebate processing time and the missing data from 25th July. The graph below makes these corrections, adding an orange line for the date of the means test introduction, and a red line 7 weeks after this.



It is clear that the real slow down of the market is only now beginning to be measurable by the government's rebate application statistics. The real state of the market will only become apparent over the next month.

We understand that Minister Garrett has instructed his department to analyse the data more closely to report on matters that skew or affect trends reported such as backlog, by state and influence groups.

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