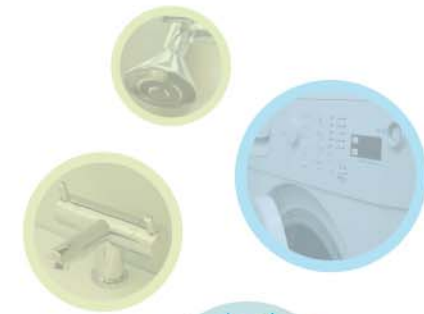


The Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme – update on scheme implementation and future priorities

Dane Roberts – Director, WELS scheme

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts



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What is the WELS Scheme?

The WELS Scheme requires that selected water using products are registered and labelled to indicate their water use efficiency for consumers when they are offered for supply in Australia.

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What is the WELS Scheme?

- National regulatory system administered by the Australian Government (through the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts) **on behalf of all Australian governments**, including a national water efficiency regulator (DEWHA Secretary).
- Enacted by the Commonwealth *Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2005 (WELS Act)*, supported by the AS/NZS 6400 Australian Standard, plus regulations and determination.
- Requires mandatory testing, registration and labelling of water using products supplied in Australia (at any point in the supply chain) that are covered by the WELS Scheme.
- *WELS Act* includes offences (with fines) related to product registration, labelling and performance.

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The WELS Scheme became mandatory in July 2006 with grace periods for sale finishing 31 December 2007

- **Products currently covered by the WELS Scheme are:**
 - toilets (minimum water efficiency standards apply for toilets);
 - clothes washing machines;
 - dishwashers;
 - urinals;
 - taps;
 - showers; and
 - flow controllers (optional).

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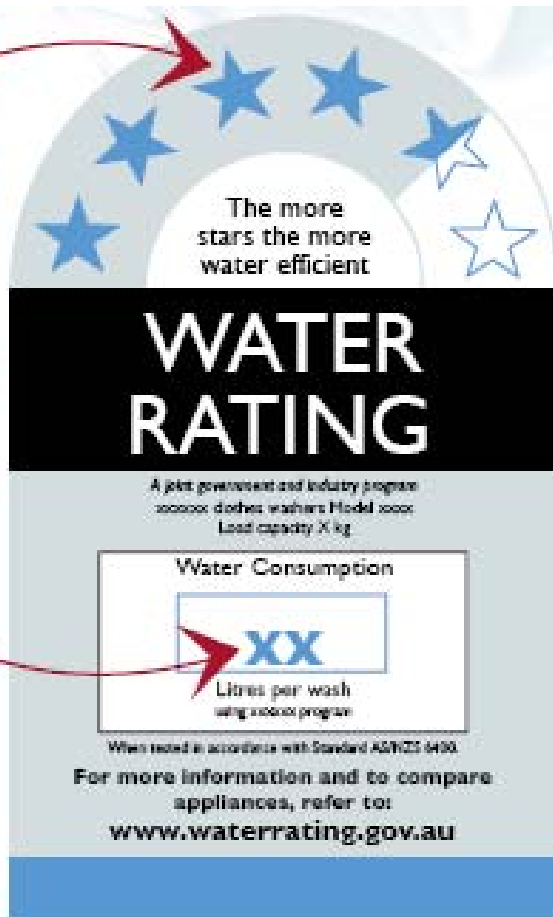
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WELS label

The stars show water efficiency
– aim for 4 or 5 stars

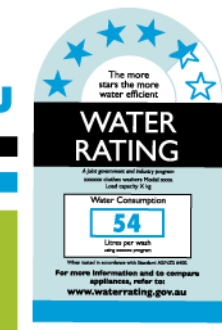
Look for the:

- average water consumption per use figure (dishwashers, washing machines, toilets, urinals)
- average water flow per minute figure (taps, showers)



The more stars the more water saved...

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How the WELS Scheme works

- Registration of products on WELS database
- Compliance
- Legislation and standards
- Communication
- Potential expansion of the WELS Scheme

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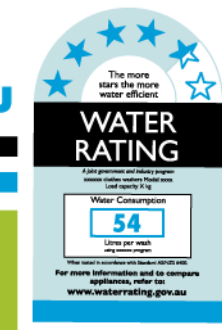


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Registrations

- About 12 000 product models registered with the WELS Scheme
- Registration fee of \$1500
- Online registration form

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Compliance and Enforcement

- Mandatory since July 2006
- Moving toward stronger enforcement action where appropriate
- Retail inspections
- Capacity to issue infringement notices
 - penalties: \$1,320 individuals; \$6,600 company per offence

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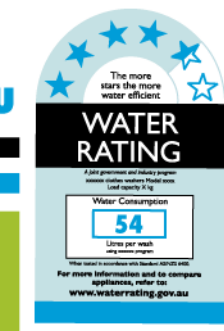


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Compliance and Enforcement

The Australian Government's approach to environmental compliance with the *Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2005* is outlined in the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts *Compliance and Enforcement Policy*.

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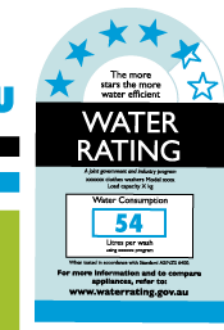
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WaterMark and the WELS Scheme

WaterMark is a certification trademark that is used in relation to water supply, sewerage, plumbing and drainage goods to ensure quality and safety

WaterMark certified goods comply with present regulation and meet the required standards and specifications

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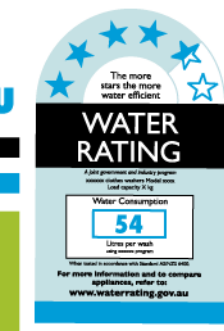


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WaterMark and WELS legislation

The House of Representatives enquiry into the regulation of plumbing product quality – *Managing the Flow* recommendation 2; “That the committee recommends that the Australian Government act to make the necessary legislative changes to establish WaterMark certification as a prerequisite for compliance with the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Scheme” – **‘Agreed in principle’**

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WaterMark and WELS legislation

- A Legislative bid for amendments to the WELS Act 2005 has been **approved**. Once passed, the legislative amendment will allow the Minister to determine that WaterMark certification be made a prerequisite for WELS scheme registration
- Final adoption of this recommendation would be made through a Determination
- Draft legislation for the changes to the WELS Act has been prepared and final approval given

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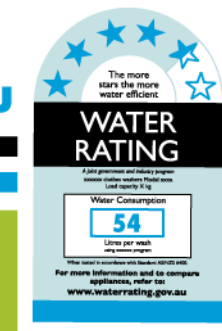


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Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

- Consultation rounds
- Advertising
- WELS Stakeholder Forums
- InkWELS
- Industry Forums
- Exhibitions
- Presentations

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Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

- 1 800 803 772 (toll free)
- WELS@environment.gov.au
- www.waterrating.gov.au

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WELS expansion program

In November 2006 the Environment Protection and Heritage Council requested that investigations be undertaken into the potential expansion of the WELS Scheme to cover certain additional products and to investigate the introduction of minimum water efficiency standards

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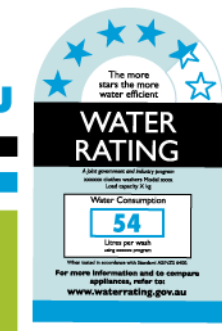


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WELS expansion program

An investigation of the costs and benefits of potential further water efficiency regulation in Australia

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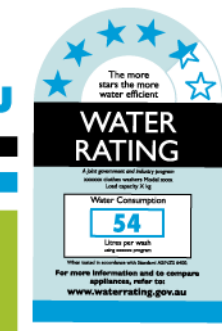
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WELS expansion program

Three cost benefit analysis/regulation impact statement processes underway

- Whitegoods (clothes washing machines, dishwashers, combination washer dryers)
- Additional products (instant gas water heaters, domestic irrigation controllers, hot water circulators and evaporative air conditioners)
- Plumbing products (taps, showers, urinals, toilets)

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WELS expansion program

These cost benefit analysis/regulation impact statement processes are subject to the Council of Australian Government (COAG) guidelines and processes and the Department of Finance and Deregulation's Office of Best Practice Regulation

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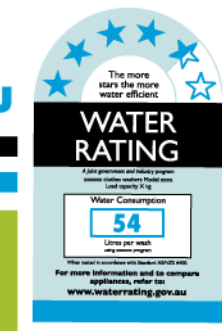


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CBA/RIS for whitegoods

- **Two specific supporting studies**
 - Water Consumption of Washer-Dryers
 - WELS labelling of the dryer component of Washer-Dryers
- **Timelines for CBA/RIS**
 - Consultation RIS was released 21 November 2008 for a 9 week public consultation period finishing 23 January 2009
 - A Decision RIS is now being prepared and is expected to go to the EHPC for decision late in 2009.

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CBA/RIS for additional products

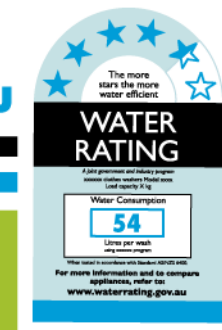
WELS labelling and WES for instant gas water heaters, domestic irrigation controllers, hot water circulators and evaporative air conditioners

Supporting studies for each product type underpin the CBA/RIS

Timelines for CBA/RIS

Two reports about these investigations are expected to be released late in 2009. A consultation RIS is expected to be released for public comment during the first half of 2010.

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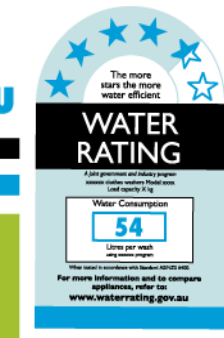
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CBA/RIS for plumbing products

Introduction of WES for existing WELS products (urinals, taps, showers) and raising the WES for toilets

- **Supporting studies**
- **Timelines for CBA/RIS**
 - Consultation RIS expected to be released for public consultation in first half of 2010.

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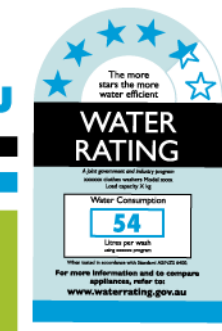


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The WELS Scheme in context

- Australians consume **24,000 gigalitres** of water per year
 - 70% of this is used for irrigation (e.g. farming)
 - 21% is consumed by urban and industrial uses
 - The remainder is used for other rural activities

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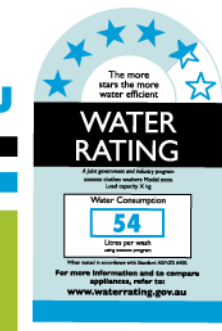


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Water savings

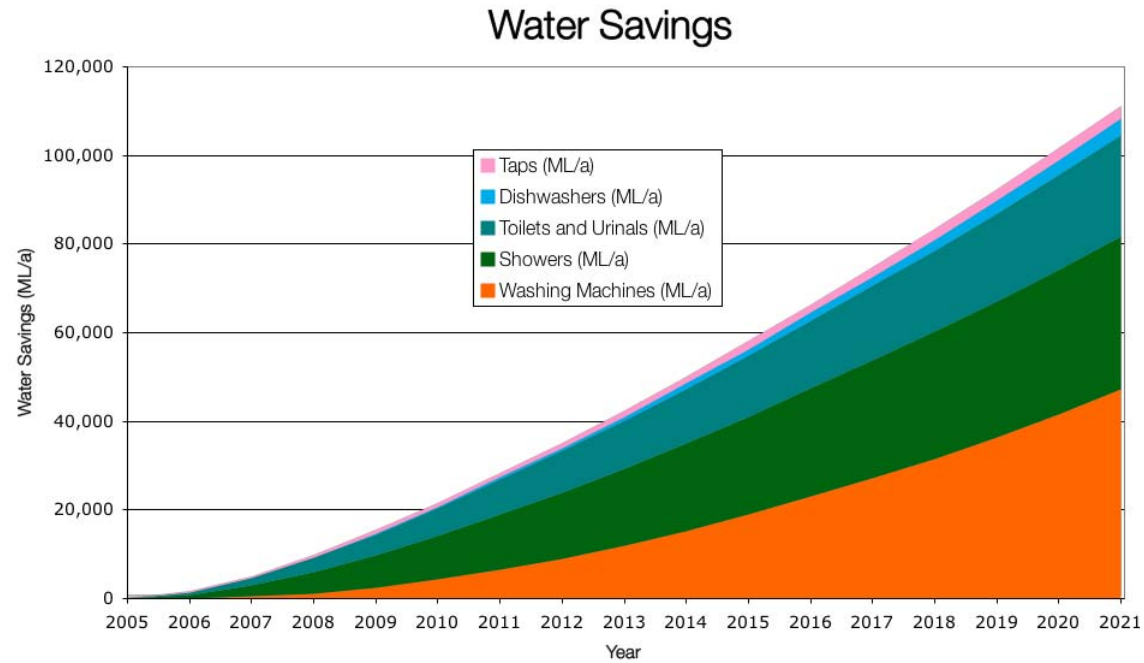
By 2021 it is estimated that using water efficient products will help to reduce domestic water use by five per cent or 87,200 megalitres each year and save about 610,000 megalitres (**more water than in Sydney Harbour**). Nearly half the water savings will come from more efficient washing machines, about 25 per cent from showers and 22 per cent from toilets.

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Water savings



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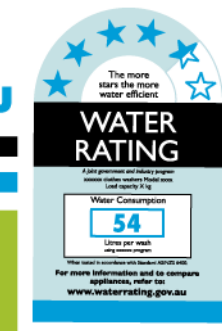


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Other savings

Over the period 2005-06 to 2020-21, WELS is projected to result in a total of over 9 million MWh of energy savings and approximately 6 million tonnes of avoided greenhouse gas emissions, due to avoided water heating. Avoided water and wastewater pumping and treatment will also lead to avoided energy consumption (over 0.6 million MWh) and avoided greenhouse gas emissions (about 0.6 million tonnes).

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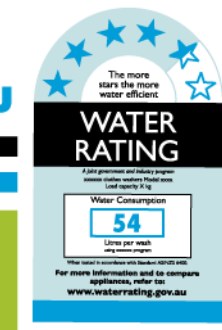


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Where to now for the WELS Scheme?

- The WELS Scheme is one of the 1st of its kind internationally
- New initiative for Australia when introduced

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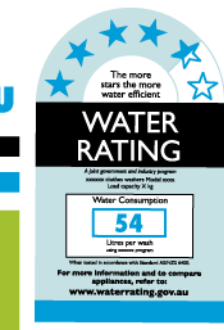


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The Review of the WELS Scheme

- The WELS Scheme is required to be independently reviewed after 5 years of operation
- While the details of the review are yet to be finalised, the review is expected to commence in the coming months and include stakeholder consultation

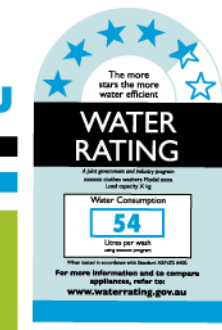
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Thank you for your attention

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