

Switched on

THE LATEST NEWS ON ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

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Issue 9 July 2003

So you missed the Stakeholder Forum on 25th March 2003?

All is not lost! A summary of the plenary session and the four concurrent workshops, and copies of the papers presented on the day are available at the revamped web site www.energyrating.gov.au. All the publications released on that day and at other times during the year can also be found on the site – browse the electronic library (www.energyrating.gov.au/library/index.html) and see what you can find.

The following precise of the Forum should give you an idea of whether it is worth your while following up.

Almost 150 participants attended the Energy Efficiency Forum 2003 throughout the day representing industry, regulators, Commonwealth and State government agencies, testing authorities, academia and consultants.

The format of the forum involved a keynote address by the Hon Theo Theophanous, Minister for Energy Industries & Resources, Victoria. The Minister's address was followed by four other keynote plenary speakers, leading then into four workshops to promote discussion and provide opportunities for participants to express their views on relevant issues. The final session captured and reviewed the outcomes of the day. All reports and presentations from the Forum are included on the web page.

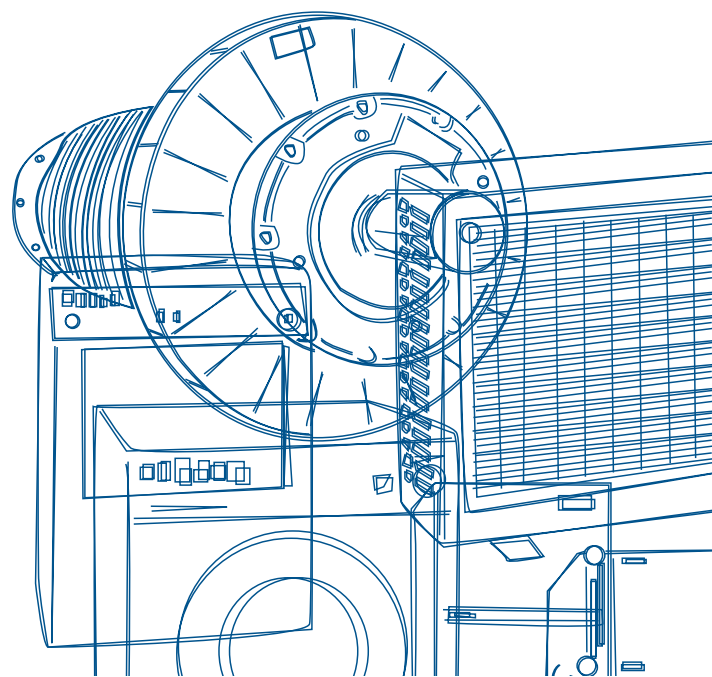
The workshops consisted of four topics:

1. **Compliance:** the cornerstone of any energy efficiency program (topics: regulations, activities of regulators, testing & enforcement arrangements). See what policing you can expect.
2. **National Appliance Labelling Strategy:** Integrating Australia's comparative and endorsement energy labels (topics: proposals for gas and electrical appliances comparative labels & new 'Galaxy' label). Read about the changes to improve the system.
3. **Standby Power:** Translating Government plans into action (topics: discussions of the announced 10-year strategy and program roll out). Check out when your products will be considered.
4. **Australia's energy efficiency program for air conditioners:** a combination of MEPS and voluntary measures (topics: multi-faceted approach to improve the efficiency of products). A "heads up" for regulation in 2004.



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Issues of *Switched on* are available on the www.energyrating.gov.au web site.

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Money available for administering the National Appliance and Equipment Program has increased by 17% for the 2003/2004.

This will allow a greater focus on compliance.

The energyrating web site has been significantly improved.

Go on, give it a visit!

Did these Companies keep up to date on mandatory energy efficiency labelling requirements?

Only Harvey Norman, Haier and Retravison probably know the answer but irrespective of whether they did or not, all are now wearing the odium of bad publicity from being caught by enforcement agencies not doing the right thing. Bad publicity is generally regarded by enforcement agencies as a greater deterrent than monetary costs and penalties. *Switched On* is playing its part.

In early May 2003 Harvey Norman was fined \$8,000 plus costs in Western Australia for failing to display energy efficiency labels on some electrical appliances on sale in their Geraldton store. Go to www.docep.wa.gov.au/default.asp?id=media/2003/may/20030509a&media=media for the full story.

These proceedings were initiated by the WA Office of Energy Safety. Most Energy Efficiency Regulators now have the power to impose on-the-spot fines for this type of conduct.

Haier Australia and Retravison gave the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) court enforceable undertakings following its investigations of alleged false energy rating claims made in association with the sale of two models of Haier brand washing machines. The undertakings given to the ACCC in April 2003 require the offer of full refunds to all consumers who bought the washing machines in question. For more details go to www.accc.gov.au/media/mediar.htm.

Personal computers, computer monitors, televisions and integrated stereos in the spotlight for mandatory labelling and standards

These four products were initially being looked at by NAEEEC as part of its National Standby Power Strategy but initial work has shown that energy used by these particular products in all modes, particularly their *on* mode, is of possibly greater concern. Because each of these products:

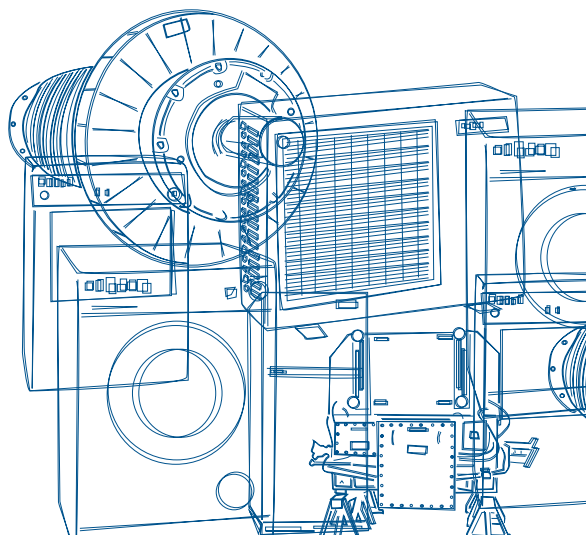
- has high penetration in Australian homes;
- contribute significantly to energy use in our homes;
- have significant power consumption when in *on* mode and in *standby* modes,

NAEEEC is having additional analysis done to see what policies might work best to reduce their overall energy consumption.

Technical reports and product profiles will be prepared for each of the products for completion later in 2003. The product profile will include, as a basis for public discussion, possible regulatory or other action. Widespread consultation is required before any recommendations can be made to Governments.

Industry and other stakeholders are being approached to participate in this process.

Of course, these products will no longer be formally part of the standby power project.



What a Gas - Industry and Government Work Together!

As reported in Issue 8 of *Switched On*, a joint government-industry working group, comprising the Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria, The Office of Gas Safety, the Australian Gas Association, the Gas Appliance Manufacturers' Association of Australia and the Australian Greenhouse Office, has agreed to work cooperatively to enhance the effectiveness of the gas appliance energy efficiency scheme.

The next step is the publication of a joint Discussion Paper in July or August 2003, which will be used as a basis for wider industry and stakeholder consultation in the second half of 2003, prior to the development of a Strategic

Plan. Electronic copies of the paper will be found on www.seav.vic.gov.au as soon as it is released. The Discussion Paper will be in circulation until November 2003 and comments can be sent, in due course, to Ian McNicol, Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria: email: ian.mcnicol@seav.vic.gov.au, or by telephone: (03) 9655 3282.

Stakeholder workshops are planned for Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide in the later part of July or early August. Ian McNicol will also be able to give you the latest on stakeholder workshops and other details about the project.

New deal for developers under solar electricity rebate program

It was announced in the Commonwealth Budget in May that the Photovoltaic Rebate Program (PVRP) would be extended for a further two years through to 2004/05 at similar funding levels to that prevailing over the past two years. The operation of the program has also been adjusted to provide a dedicated pool of funding to support the installation of PV systems on residential developments. Up to \$1 million has been set aside to be offered for residential property developments through a competitive bidding process. Industry consultation is underway and it is expected that a Request for Tender will be released in July or August.

Other changes to the operation of the program have included an adjustment in the level of the rebate to enable greater numbers of applicants to access rebates, and an amendment to the Guidelines to avoid delays in the approval of applications.

Amount of rebate

- The rebate is based on the peak PV output of the new PV component of the system.
- The minimum system size is 450-watt peak output.

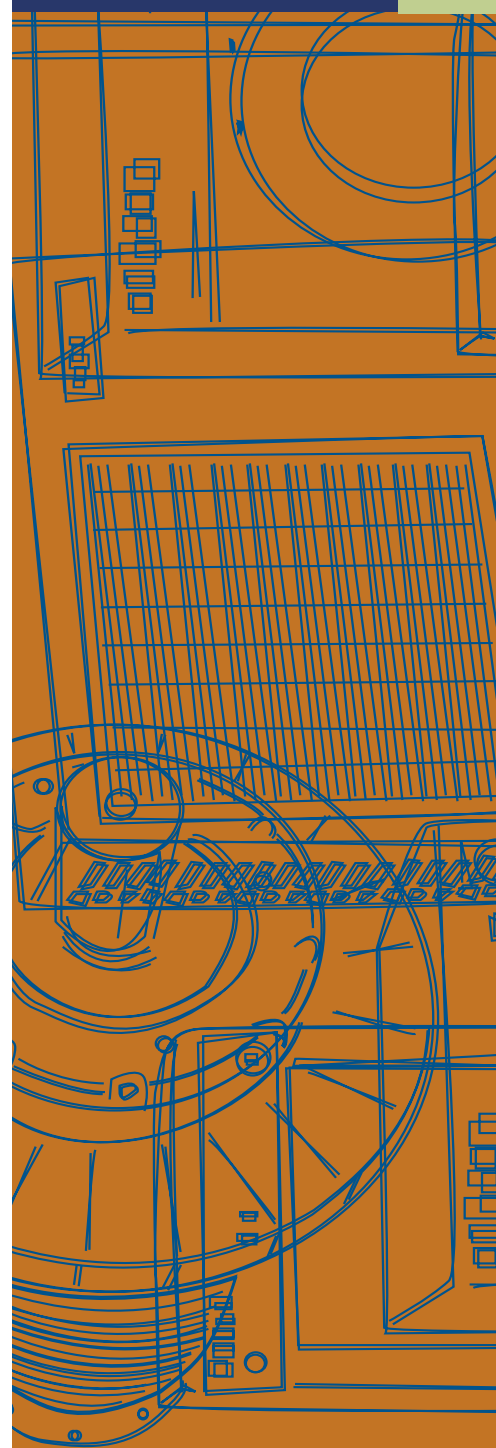
- There is no maximum size, although the rebate of \$4.00 per peak watt (ppw) for new systems is capped at \$4,000 (or 1.0kW) for residential installations and \$8,000 (or 2.0kW) for Community Building installations.
- Extensions to existing PV systems may receive rebates of \$2.50 ppw capped at \$2,500 (1.0kW).

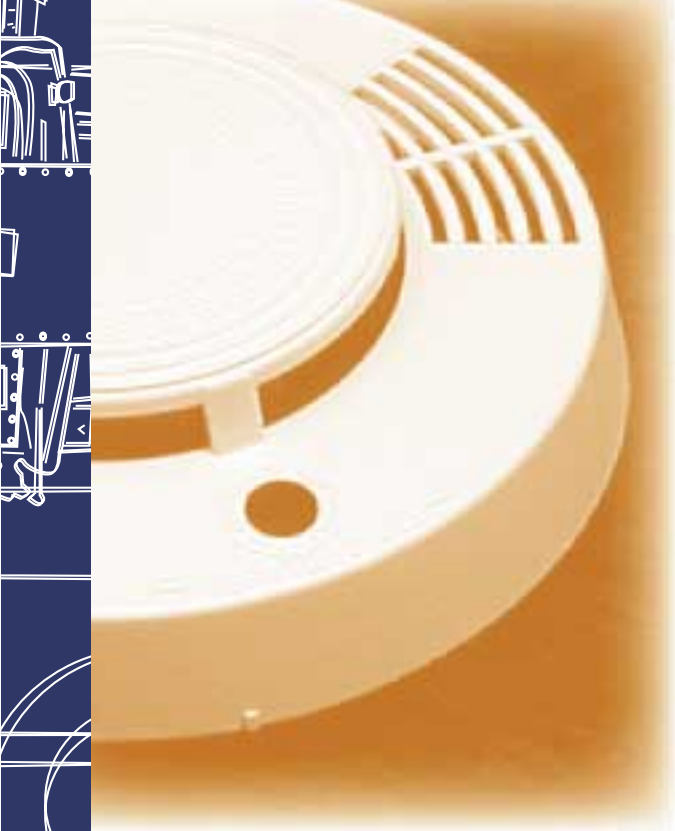
Further information on the operation of the Photovoltaic Rebate Program may be obtained by:

- calling 1300 138 122
- viewing the Australian Greenhouse Office website at: www.greenhouse.gov.au/renewable/pv
- or by writing to

The Program Manager
Photovoltaic Rebate Program
Australian Greenhouse Office
GPO Box 621
CANBERRA ACT 2601

The first planning steps are being taken to harmonise the various electricity, gas and water efficiency labeling schemes under the banner of Resource Labelling. Further information will be revealed in the next issue.





Standing By Standby

As many of you will be aware from either your involvement, attending Stakeholder Forums or from reading earlier issues of *Switched On*, Australia released its 10-year National Standby Strategy in November 2002. This Strategy promised the release of a multitude of individual 'product profiles' during the 2003-2005 period.

Switched On is pleased to be able to report that the promises are starting to be delivered. The DVD player profile was released in March, with those for:

- Printers
- Photocopiers
- VCRs
- Portable stereos
- Smoke detectors

being progressively released from July. The Strategy and individual product profiles can be found at www.energyrating.gov.au

What is New Zealand up to?

You won't have to wonder much longer because New Zealand will be issuing a draft forward program for improving the energy efficiency of products and appliances during the period 2003-2005, shortly. The discussion paper will be posted on:

<http://www.eeca.govt.nz/default2.asp> not earlier than 25 July 2003.

The contact in the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment is Barbara Rouse (barbara.rouse@mfe.govt.nz)

Early warning! New Mandatory Energy Performance Levels coming for a range of products

The remainder of 2003 will be a particularly busy time with a number of government decisions scheduled to increase the stringency of MEPS on some products and introduce MEPS on others.

The Ministerial Council on Energy will be asked to take the final, binding decision on MEPS for **distribution transformers** shortly. The MEPS is proposed to start from 1 October 2004 with the levels already in the Australian Standard.

After working with the **commercial refrigeration** industry in a cooperative fashion since late in 2000, the final consensus on MEPS should be reported in the Australian Standard in a few months and public consultation on the economic impact can begin. The target date for commencing these MEPS is 1 October 2004, with the Standard to be published in a couple of months.

The public consultation for **single phase airconditioner's** MEPS will commence next month and for **lamps** in September, again aiming to commence from 1 October 2004. The Australian Standards should be available in August 2003.

With public processes on electric motors, electric storage water heaters and three-phase airconditioners also to commence in the next few months, the NAEEEP program will seek MCE approval for a range of proposals in the next six months.

If you are interested in any of these products and are not already on our product specific distribution lists, please advise john.primrose@greenhouse.gov.au so you receive the latest information as developments unfold.



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