

Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Advisory Group (WELSAG)

Communiqué for WELSAG's meeting on Tuesday 9 December 2014

The WELS Advisory Group (the Group) held its first meeting for 2014 on 9 December in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.

The Group, re-established to provide input to the 2014-15 WELS Review, welcomed three new members to the Group, as well as a new Chair.

The Group were introduced to Mr Tom Mollenkopf, the Independent Reviewer of the scheme, and the project team from Aither Pty Ltd, who are providing support to Mr Mollenkopf and the Department of the Environment throughout the review process.

WELSAG was provided an update on reforms made to the WELS scheme in response to the last statutory review in 2010, as well as progress on revising the WELS Determinations and WELS Standard, expected to be finalised in early 2015. The Group also discussed the current WELS cost recovery arrangements and funding model.

Mr Tom Mollenkopf presented the WELS Review Discussion Paper to the Group, and led a robust discussion through the questions posed in the paper. The Group provided input to the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the scheme as it currently operates, as well as suggestions on ways to improve or modify certain aspects of the scheme. Each member of the Group put forward their thoughts on what the most important aspects of the scheme must be captured in the Review Final Report. Mr Mollenkopf outlined the way forward for further stakeholder consultation with industry representatives throughout the review process.

The Group scheduled its next meeting for March 2015, to provide input to the Review Final Report.