

# **Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Advisory Group (WELSAG)**

## **Reports from meetings in 2012**

### **Communiqué for WELSAG's 5th meeting on Monday 21 May 2012**

The WELS Advisory Group (the Group) held its fifth meeting on Monday 21 May 2012 in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.

The Group approved the record of outcomes from its 4th meeting and were advised on progress with the WELS reform process including outcomes from stakeholder consultations. The Group was advised a public document summarising the outcomes from the consultation process will soon be released on the WELS website. The Group was advised the WELS (Scheme Enhancements) Amendment Bill 2012 is scheduled to enter Parliament this week and were provided a summary of the matters covered in the Bill.

The Group discussed outcomes from the continuous improvement survey. The Group agreed stability of the committee should be maintained by reappointing the current membership, with a view to in future terms replacing half the membership at a time to retain corporate knowledge. The Group agreed that the focus of their work for the coming year will involve providing both business as usual and high level policy advice, and that member composition should continue to serve this diversity of roles.

The Group was given presentations, and invited to comment on, WELS Program matters including registrations, compliance and communications. The Group discussed progress on redevelopment of the WELS database to support new arrangements and focus for compliance activities in the coming year. The Group also discussed feedback from WELS consumer research and progress on redevelopment of the WELS website.

The Group has scheduled its next meeting for 17 October 2012 in Melbourne.

### **Communiqué for WELSAG's 4th meeting on Tuesday 7 February 2012**

The WELS Advisory Group (the Group) held its fourth meeting on Tuesday 7 February 2012 in Melbourne, Victoria.

The Group approved the record of outcomes from its 3rd meeting. The Group was formally advised of Ms Corinne Cheeseman's (National Manager, Technical Programs Australian Water Association) resignation. The Group agreed at this stage in its life it is timely to undertake a strategic assessment of its progress to date, future activities, composition and operation of the secretariat. Members agreed the secretariat will conduct a survey of members to achieve this assessment.

The achievements of WELSAG to date were noted including contribution to development of the WELS 2012-15 Strategic Plan, advice to the WELS Officials' Group on scheme matters and advice to Commonwealth, State and Territory Water ministers regarding proposed changes to the WELS scheme and its funding. A meeting between the Chair of WELSAG, Mr Ian Carmody and the Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Don Farrell was also useful in conveying the Group's advice.

The Group was advised of progress with the current consultation process and provided its views on the consultation paper. Members were provided with a draft presentation for the stakeholder forums scheduled for Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne and provided feedback on the proposed arrangements for these forums and the consultation process generally.

The Group has scheduled its next meeting for May 2012.