



2014-15 WELS Review Terms of Reference

Introduction

An independent review of the operation of the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) scheme is required, consistent with Section 76 of the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2005 (Cth) (the WELS Act).

WELS is Australia's water efficiency labelling scheme that requires certain products to be registered and labelled with their water efficiency in accordance with the standard set under the WELS Act. The WELS Act is supported by complementary legislation in all States and Territories and is administered by the Commonwealth on behalf of all Australian Governments.

The WELS Regulator is established by the WELS Act and is responsible for the administration of the WELS Scheme.

Products currently requiring registration are:

- showers
- tap equipment over a basin (excluding bath and shower taps)
- flow controllers
- toilet (lavatory) equipment
- urinal equipment
- clothes washing machines
- dishwashers

The objectives of the review are to:

Review the appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme and the extent to which its administration has met the objects of the WELS Act.

Identify opportunities to improve and streamline consumer water efficiency information, including reducing regulatory compliance costs for business and the community.

To achieve its objectives, the review will include examination of:

- The performance of the current scheme in meeting the objects of the WELS Act.
- The water and energy savings and other environmental benefits attributable to the scheme, including the impacts on water availability for agriculture, the environment and other non-urban uses.
- How the scheme is used by consumers, industry and regulators and the interactions with other regulatory arrangements including WaterMark and the Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) scheme.
- The cumulative regulatory impacts and costs of the current scheme and other regulatory arrangements on industry and consumers.
- The appropriateness of the current cost recovery arrangements and their impact on business and the community.