

Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Advisory Group (WELSAG)

Reports from meetings in 2011

Communiqué for WELSAG's 3rd meeting on Wednesday 26 October 2011

The WELS Advisory Group (the Group) held its third meeting on 26 October 2011 in Melbourne, Victoria.

The Group approved the record of outcomes from its 2nd meeting and was updated on WELS scheme operational matters and development of revised cost recovery arrangements. The Group was provided with advice on the processes for legislative amendments arising from implementation of recommendations from the 2010 independent review of the WELS scheme and the approval process for the proposed 2012-15 WELS strategic plan.

The Group provided final views on the funding platform, the strategic plan and the recommendations from the 2010 independent review of the WELS scheme. The focus here included sell through/grandfather provisions, advertising requirements for WELS products and the role of voluntary products in the scheme. The Group also discussed issues relating to current definitions of a model and family of models to assist in the process of tightening the existing family of models provisions.

The Group prepared its comments for the Standing Council on Environment and Water (SCEW) concerning the proposed 2012-15 WELS strategic plan. The Group emphasised the need to continue an industry-government relationship that is cooperative, robust and fully engaged.

The Group has scheduled its next meeting for 7 February 2012 in Melbourne.

Communiqué for WELSAG's 2nd meeting on Wednesday 31 August 2011

The WELS Advisory Group (WELSAG) held its second meeting on 31 August 2011 in Sydney, New South Wales.

The Group approved the record of outcomes from its inaugural meeting and was updated on WELS scheme operation matters. The Group was also provided an update on progress with implementing outcomes from the 2010 independent review of the WELS scheme and provided feedback on options for some of the review recommendations. These included advertising requirements for WELS products, changes to the gazettal requirement, introduction of civil penalties, recasting of criminal offences and provision for grandfathering of products.

The Group provided comments on the draft proposed three year strategic plan and funding arrangement, including matters on which it did not agree with the WELS Officials Group, and reemphasized its support of the independent review recommendation that the scheme be predominantly funded by governments.

The Chair reported the views of the Group to the WELS Officials Group on 13 July from its inaugural meeting and on 15 September from its second meeting.

The Group has scheduled its next meeting for 26 October 2011 in Melbourne.

Communiqué for WELSAG's inaugural meeting on Tuesday 28 June 2011



From left to right: Corinne Cheeseman, Cilla de Lacy, Graeme Marshall, Jo Benvenuti, Ben Normoyle, Carmel M Coate, Ian Forte, Senator Farrell, Ian McAlister, Ian Carmody

The WELS Advisory Group (WELSAG) held its inaugural meeting on 28 June 2011 in Adelaide, South Australia.

Members of WELSAG were welcomed by Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water.

The Group discussed its operating procedures, including terms of reference, roles of the Chair and members, and the process for reaching and recording meeting outcomes. WELSAG noted that meeting outcomes would be released in the form of a public communiqué on the WELS scheme website, and that the Chair would report on behalf of the Group to meetings of the WELS Officials' Group.

WELSAG was provided an update on progress with implementing outcomes from the 2010 independent review of the WELS scheme and joint governments' initial response. The Group also commenced discussions on the proposed three-year strategic plan and funding arrangements. The Group noted that the proposed strategic plan and funding platform are to be completed and submitted to joint governments for consideration by November 2011.

The Group scheduled its next meeting for 31 August 2011 in Sydney.