



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 12 September 2007

Chair: Mal Washer MP

Deputy Chair: Jennie George MP

20,000 litres down the drain!

With many Australians still suffering under severe drought conditions, they will be appalled to know that a dripping tap can waste up to 20,000 litres of water each year. The Master Plumbers' and Mechanical Services Association of Australia claims that over 70 per cent of water and energy savings that can be achieved in buildings are related to plumbing installations.

The Chair of the House of Representatives Environment and Heritage Committee, Dr Mal Washer, said it was timely for parliament to investigate the regulation of plumbing product quality in Australia.

"Controlling the quality of plumbing products available for sale and installation in Australia, is essential for conserving precious water resources and safeguarding public health," Dr Washer said.

As part of its inquiry, the Committee will be holding a roundtable discussion on Thursday, **13 September 2007**, at **10.30 am in Committee Room 2S3 at Parliament House, Canberra**. The Committee will hear from key stakeholder groups and individuals of long-standing in the industry:

- Department of Environment and Water Resources
- National Plumbing Regulators Forum (sub #21)
- Standards Australia (sub #23)
- National Plumbing Associations Alliance (sub #9)
- Plumbing Products Industry Group (sub #6)
- Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association Ltd (sub #22)
- Mr Stuart Henry MP (sub #12)
- Mr Michael Kefford (sub #8)

This roundtable will provide a forum for discussion of key issues, including the operation of the WaterMark Certification and Water Efficiency Labelling Standards (WELS) Schemes. Members of the public are welcome to come and observe.

Further information about the inquiry and the Committee's roundtable, can be found at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/envIRON/regulation/index.htm> or obtained by phoning the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or emailing to: environment.reps@aph.gov.au.

For **media comment**, contact: Dr Mal Washer, House Environment Committee Chair, on (02) 6277 2114

For information contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4580