



# MEDIA RELEASE

**The Hon Peter Garrett MP**

*Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts*

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## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES**

### *Putting Australia on the Energy Efficiency Fast-Track*

The energy efficiency of electrical and gas appliances will be improved over the next four years under a \$14.0 million Rudd Labor Government scheme to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Minister for the Environment Peter Garrett said today.

The scheme will include implementing a 10-star energy rating system, introducing Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) and accelerating the 1-watt standard for appliances with standby power.

“The energy consumed by appliances and equipment is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia,” Mr Garrett said.

“Standby power accounts for as much as 10 per cent of families’ energy bills, with some products using as much as 20 Watts in standby mode.

“That means in most Australian homes, the clock on the microwave generates more greenhouse gas emissions than actually microwaving food over a year.

“The Rudd Labor Government’s Energy Efficiency Fast-Track is aimed at reducing domestic energy use, cutting greenhouse gases and helping families lower their energy bills.

“These measures will improve information for consumers on the energy efficiency and greenhouse impacts of a range of widely used electrical and gas appliances, giving customers better information as well as providing a real incentive for manufacturers and importers to continually improve their products.”

The Australian Government will:

- Revise the current 6-star energy rating label to 10-stars.
- Complement Minimum Energy Performance Standards with combined Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards.
- Expand the number of products required to meet minimum greenhouse and energy performance standards.
- Accelerate the introduction of standards for a range of previously unregulated products such as set top boxes, computers and home entertainment equipment.
- Review standards every three years for all major appliances.
- Accelerate the introduction of the 1-watt standard for standby across all consumer electrical appliances.
- Enhance the testing and compliance regime for regulated products.

“Through the 10-star system, to be phased in over the next 12 months, it will be easier to identify super-efficient appliances.

“This suite of measures delivers on our election commitments to make it easier for all Australians to tackle climate change.”