



# MEDIA RELEASE

**The Hon Peter Garrett MP**

*Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts*

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## **THE TV STARS HAVE ARRIVED!**

Energy conscious consumers can now 'look for the stars' when shopping for a television, Environment Minister Peter Garrett announced today.

With energy star rating labels now starting to appear on televisions on shop room floors, Mr Garrett said choosing appliances that use less electricity was one simple way to save money and energy.

"One in four Australians buys a new television each year and televisions are now the fourth largest user of electricity in our homes after water heating, domestic refrigeration and lighting," he said.

"Television energy use has increased fourfold between 1986 and 2006 and is continuing to grow due to the new technology, increased hours of use and bigger screens.

"A large wide-screen TV can use the same energy as a medium-sized fridge each day, which is more than your dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer combined.

"That massive growth is having a big impact on Australians' energy bills and our carbon footprint."

Mr Garrett said the introduction of the energy rating labels for televisions was one of the announcements the Government made to coincide with World Environment Day in June this year.

"Energy rating labels have helped Australians compare the energy efficiency of white goods for more than 20 years. Labels on TVs will also be a major selling feature when consumers consider the ongoing costs of using their new TV, both financial and environmental."

According a recent Australian Bureau of Statistics study, energy and water efficiency are the main factors considered by Australian households when replacing or buying white goods.

"With Christmas and the Boxing Day sales just around the corner, it's great that we'll start to see these labels appearing on TV sets around the nation to provide consumers with a chance to make an informed choice about their new investment.

"If you're thinking about spending your Christmas bonus on a new TV set, ask your retailer about which televisions are the most energy efficient," Mr Garrett said.

"There will be more models available with the star ratings in early 2009. The more stars, the more efficient the product – a three star TV for example uses 20 per cent less energy than a two star product of the same size.

"In the meantime, choose the TV that meets your needs. And remember: the smaller the TV the less energy it uses.

"The Australian Government welcomes the cooperation of major manufacturers and retailers who are embracing the new scheme."

Voluntary labelling of televisions is the first step to reducing the carbon emissions generated by televisions. This program will transition into mandatory labelling in 2009. Minimum energy performance standards for new TVs are targeted to come into effect on 1 October 2009.