

Media release



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER, MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR 5 STAR HOMES

A Victorian Government survey has found almost 90 per cent of householders living in a 5 Star home for 12 months or more would definitely recommend a 5 Star energy rated home to others.

Acting Premier and Environment John Thwaites said the survey results clearly showed that Victorian new home buyers were happy with their 5 Star homes.

“Over 60 per cent of respondents said achieving the 5 Star rating was easy,” Mr Thwaites said.

“This new research confirms strong community support for the 5 Star standard, with the majority of householders reporting improved comfort levels in winter and summer.

“This is because a 5 Star home uses 50 per cent less energy for heating and cooling than the typical 2 Star house built before the standard was introduced.”

The 150 respondents who took part in the survey were from four new housing developments that had been building to a minimum 5 Star standard prior to the standard’s introduction last July.

The developments were selected so that the survey could draw on the householders’ experience of living in a 5 Star home over a 12 month seasonal cycle.

The independent survey commissioned by Sustainability Victoria also found:

- 89 per cent agreed that all new homes should be 5 Star rated;
- 88 per cent said living in their house met their expectations of a 5 Star energy rated home;
- The majority said their homes were definitely warmer in winter (89%) and were cooler in summer (86%);
- 76 per cent said they were using their heater less in winter;
- Despite eight of ten households upsizing, out of the respondents who compared their energy bills from their previous home, 71% noticed their bills were lower.

Mr Thwaites said while people were reporting lower energy bills, the State Government would undertake further research into the energy use of 5 Star homes later this year to quantify the savings.

Member for Carrum and Head of the Victorian Government's Environment and Natural Resources Committee Jenny Lindell said the survey shows that any additional up front costs to reach 5 Star are offset by reduced household energy and water bills over the life of the home.

"The move to the 5 Star standard is clearly a positive one that has a minimal effect on overall building costs, while delivering long-term energy and water savings for consumers – and a significant step in reducing greenhouse gas emissions," Ms Lindell said.

"While the survey results show 5 Star is a great step forward, globally Australia lags behind world's best practice and we need to move forward faster to counter growing environmental concerns."

Victoria is the first state to introduce a 5 Star energy and water standard. The standard was fully implemented on 1 July 2005 and requires all new homes in Victoria to install a range of energy and water saving measures.

The 5 star standard is expected to save Victoria more than 600,000 tonnes of greenhouse pollution over the next 5 years – the equivalent of taking 150,000 cars off the road.

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