

Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction (Hot Water Systems) Bill 2007

Explanatory Memorandum

Clause 1 – Short Title

Specifies the short title of the Act as the *Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction (Hot Water Systems) Bill 2007*.

Clause 2 – Commencement

Provides that the Act comes into operation on Royal Assent.

Clause 3 - Definitions

Sets out definitions of terms used in the Bill.

Hot water system

The definition of “hot water system” is important to the scope of the Bill. Hot water system is defined as “a system that is to supply hot water for amenity purposes including washing, bathing or showering”. This definition covers hot water systems used for amenity purposes in government and commercial settings as well as domestic hot water systems. However, it does not cover hot water systems used for industrial purposes, such as industrial boilers.

Compliant heat pump, gas and solar hot water systems

The requirements for compliant heat pump, gas and solar hot water systems reflect the Government's ‘5 star plus’ standard for new homes. In order to allow the flexibility to lift standards in line with technological advances in the future, different standards to the '5 star plus' standards can be prescribed in regulations. Under clause 7(3), different standards can only be put in place if the responsible Minister is satisfied that greenhouse gas emissions will be as good or lower under the different standards.

Clause 4 – Objects of the Act

The object of the Act is to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of hot water systems in Western Australia.

Clause 5 – Crown Bound

This is a standard clause which seeks to ensure that so far as possible, the State and Commonwealth governments are bound by the Act.

Clause 6 – Restriction on sale, hire etc of hot water systems

Clause 6 provides that from 1 July 2009 a hot water system shall not be sold, hired or exposed for sale or hire or advertised for sale or hire unless it is one of the three systems described above or another system prescribed in regulation. The ability to prescribe additional types of hot water systems in regulation provides flexibility to include new systems developed as a result of technological improvements. It could also be used to allow the sale of wood-based water heaters which are used occasionally in country areas.

Clause 7 - Regulations

This is a clause empowers the making of regulations. In order to prevent regulations from watering down the requirements in the Bill, this clause provides that regulations prescribing new hot water systems or new standards for hot water systems may not be made unless the responsible Minister is satisfied that greenhouse gas emissions will be equal or less than those associated with existing requirements.