

In the news

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Summit general manager David Hunt said innovative design and embracing a responsibility to reduce a homeowner's carbon footprint has led to all 16 of Summit Homes' displays exceeding the minimum energy rating requirement. PICTURE: JON GELWEILLER

Builder quick to adopt new rating system

SUMMIT Homes in Bunbury is helping homeowners reduce their carbon footprint by introducing the six-star energy rating system 12 months before the requirements will be introduced in the State.

The stringent energy efficiency rating laws applies to alterations or additions to existing homes and aims to save people up to 70 per cent off their new home's heating and cooling costs.

The announcement came as State Labor's sustainable living spokesman Chris Tallentire called on the Barnett Government to affirm its commitment

to the six-star energy rating system and the 12-month phase-in period.

A house's energy equivalence rating, which is out of 10 stars, is determined by factors like the design of its shell including the roof, walls, windows and floors, however, the rating does not take into consideration a house's fixtures and appliances.

Summit general manager David Hunt said innovative design and embracing a responsibility to reduce a homeowner's carbon footprint had led to all 16 of Summit Homes' displays exceeding the minimum energy rating requirement.

"Launching this commitment more than 12 months before the mandatory roll-out is yet another way that we can demonstrate we are listening to our customer needs and responding to what they want," he said.

Mr Tallentire called on Commerce Minister Simon O'Brien not to delay or lengthen the phase-in period for the system, which provides energy and cost-saving options to West Australians struggling with increasing energy costs.

"My advice to people building a new home is to insist on six-star," Mr Tallentire said.

"All potential new homebuyers must be informed of the benefits of six-star. If the Government does its job six-star will be compulsory from May 1, 2012."

Mr Tallentire said investing in a six-star home ensured the house was positioned correctly on the block and the solar designs would ensure a house would stay naturally cool in summer and warm in winter.

"Building companies claimed these homes were 35-90 per cent more energy efficient which could result in massive savings for families struggling to cope with record increases to household bills," he said.

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