

In the news

South Western Times
31 March 2011

Summit embraces six-star rating

BUNBURY-based builder Summit Homes claims it has become the first WA builder to launch a minimum six-star energy efficiency rating commitment.

The stringent energy efficiency rating laws, which also applies to alterations or additions to existing homes, replaces the previous five-star energy efficiency requirement which had been in place for several years.

A house's energy equivalence rating, which is out of 10 stars, is determined by factors such as the design of its envelope or shell such as the roof, walls, windows and floors.

But an energy equivalence rating

does not take into consideration a house's fixtures and appliances such as hot water systems, air conditioners, lighting and fridges.

Summit Homes claims homebuyers from Waroona to Augusta, looking to save up to 70 per cent off their new home's heating and cooling costs, would benefit from its energy efficiency commitment, a year before the changes are to be introduced as a mandatory requirement.

Company general manager David Hunt said the launch of Summit's six-star energy efficiency strategy had been planned for some time given that provisions were al-

ready underway in the rest of the country.

"While Western Australia will be the last State to adopt the six-star requirements, we are delighted that Summit Homes is the first builder to embrace it locally," Mr Hunt said.

To date all 16 of Summit Homes' displays State-wide exceed the minimum six-star energy rating requirement, following a comprehensive industry assessment and evaluation of current design and building practices.

The strongest rated home among Summit's South West range was the Lotus in Millbridge, which reportedly returned a rating of 8.6 stars.

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