

In the news

Weekend West NEW HOMES

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Summit raises energy rating bar

GEMMA NISBET

Six-star energy-efficiency ratings will start to be phased in soon and become mandatory for all new WA homes from May next year, but local builder Summit Homes has taken a proactive approach by recently launching a minimum six-star rating commitment.

All 16 of Summit Homes' displays now exceed the six-star energy rating requirement, with even the lowest rated home having received an impressive 7.7 stars — well above the minimum standard.

The highest rated of the builder's displays are the Westport in Jindalee and the Review in Byford, which are both rated 8.7 stars. According to Summit, this rating could enable homeowners to save upwards of 70 per cent on their heating and cooling costs compared with a five-star home. While WA would be the last

State to adopt the six-star requirements, Summit Homes was proud to be one of the first builders to embrace it locally, sales and marketing manager Tim Underwood said.

"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 customers' needs and responding to what they want," Mr Underwood said.

Features such as R4 insulation batts in the roof, photovoltaic solar electricity panels and air-cell insulation between the wall cavities would be incorporated into Summit's new homes to achieve the higher efficiency ratings.

In addition to the potential cost savings, the new energy-efficiency design resulted in a range of benefits for buyers, Mr Underwood said.

Furthermore, having a new home rated in excess of six stars



Solar electricity panels

could also improve its resale value. It is a requirement in other States that homes must possess this minimum rating before they can be sold.

Mr Underwood added that Summit had ensured that the new six-star initiatives would not result in inflated prices being passed on to homebuyers.

"The Summit Homes team has been investigating these costs for some months and through negotiations with our suppliers and clever design we have managed to reduce any cost impact to the public considerably," he said.

"Because of our strong buying power and thorough research, the costs are negligible and we therefore made a decision to not pass them onto our clients."

For more information, visit www.summitnewhomes.com.au or call 9333 0888 (Perth metro) or 9722 0300 (South-West).



Tim Underwood from Summit Homes shows R4 insulation.

Perth Metro: 9333 0888
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