



News Release

DIANE BEAMER

**MINISTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING
MEMBER FOR MULGOA**

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NSW LEADS THE WAY FOR SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

NSW Assistant Planning Minister, Diane Beamer, has called on the Productivity Commission to fully acknowledge the major contribution being made to environmental planning by the Carr Government's Building Sustainability Index (BASIX).

The Productivity Commission's recently released draft Energy Efficiency report raised concerns over regulatory schemes aimed at making buildings more energy efficient.

"The draft report failed to recognise that BASIX represents a different policy approach to the National House Energy Rating star system, adopted by other states," Ms Beamer said.

BASIX requires all new residential developments to use 40 percent less water and 25 percent less energy compared with the existing average house.

Rather than adopt the one size fits all national approach of the star rating system, NSW refined the system and developed the web-based BASIX program as an equitable, measurable tool that rewards better design.

"BASIX considers far more than simply the performance of the building material, which is where the national system stops. BASIX examines the energy consumption of the whole dwelling, including lighting, heating, cooling and hot water systems," Ms Beamer said.

"The star scheme has resulted in homes that perform poorly in winter and require excessive amounts of air conditioning during summer.

"BASIX applies bonuses for well-designed naturally ventilated houses, recognises that smaller homes use less energy and forces larger homes to be far more efficient - things that go unrecognised under the star rating scheme," Ms Beamer said.

BASIX takes into account regional climate and rainfall differences ensuring that the requirements for a house in Dubbo will differ from those in Ballina. BASIX will be introduced in regional NSW from 1st July.

"BASIX has received a number of awards, most recently, the Planning Institute of Australia's National Urban Planning Achievement award. The ACT and WA are actively considering adopting BASIX," Ms Beamer said.

"Almost 18,000 BASIX Certificates have been generated for new homes in Sydney in its first 10-months, increasing demand for products such as efficient hot water systems, water efficient appliances and rainwater tanks.

"I expect the Productivity Commission's final report to fully appreciate the innovative, equitable and effective approach of BASIX and to accurately represent it as a huge step forward in environmental planning," Ms Beamer said.

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