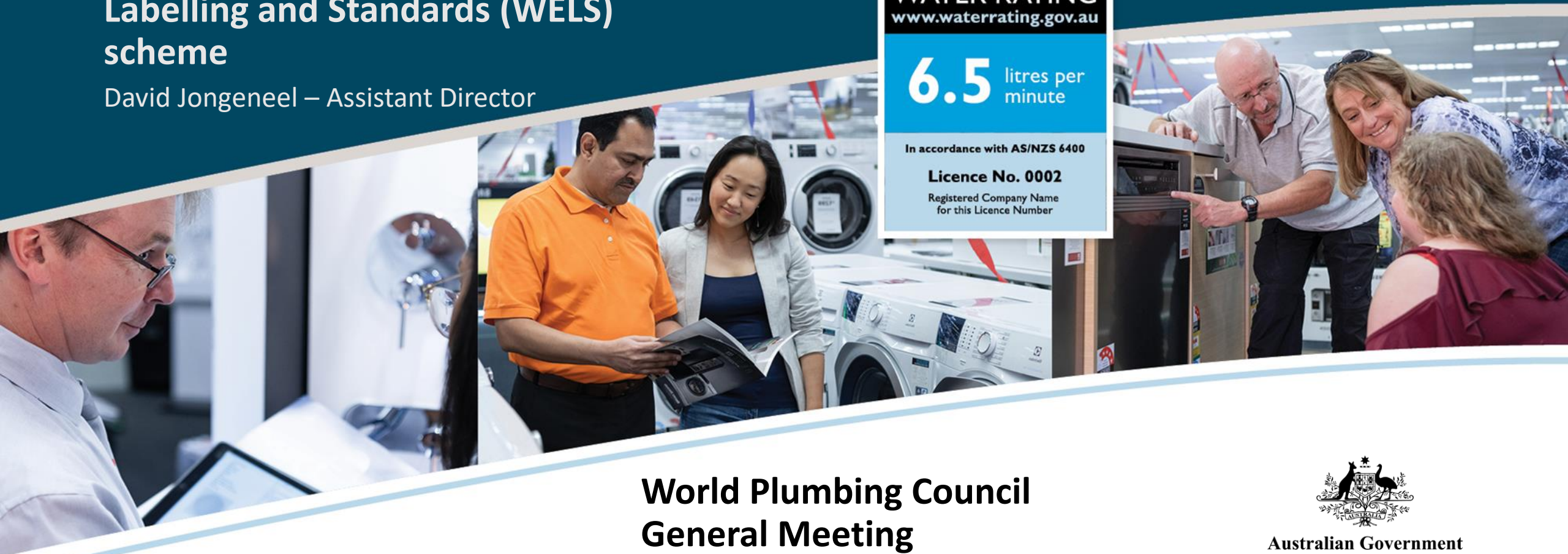


Australia's Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) scheme

David Jongeneel – Assistant Director

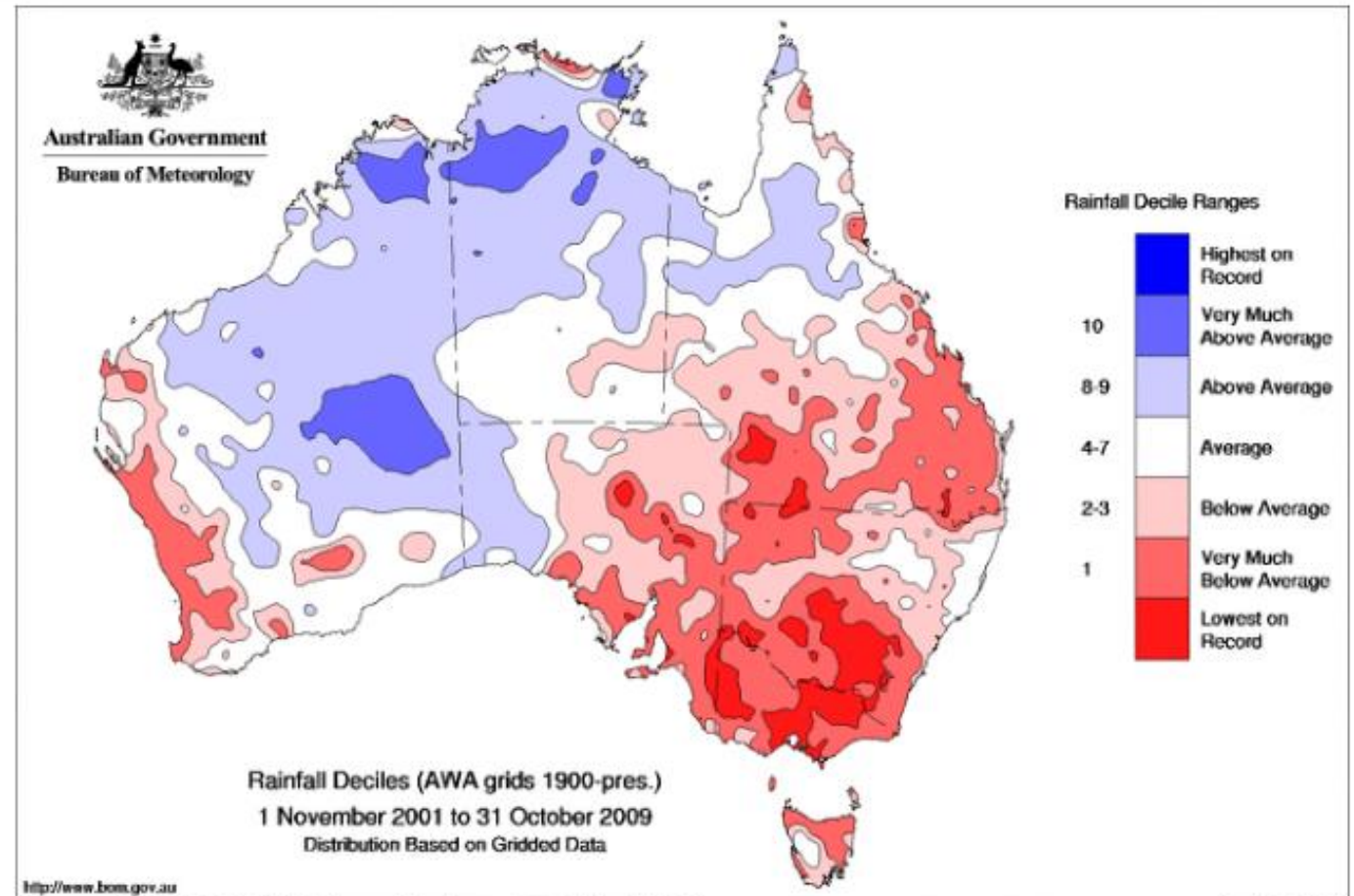


**World Plumbing Council
General Meeting
7 December 2022**

WELS started during the Millennium drought

- All Australian states and territories were concerned about water and widespread water restrictions were in place

Rainfall deciles at the peak of the Millennium Drought (2001 to 2009)



WELS EVOLUTION

Small voluntary scheme to a regulated national scheme

1988

1990

1992

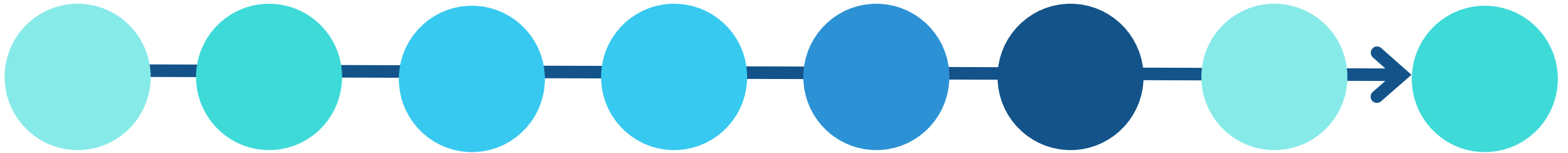
1994

1995

1999

2003

2005



Water utility created and managed a voluntary scheme for showers, in Melbourne

Subcommittee of a Water Ministers' council took over administration

First Australian Standard for testing efficiency published.

Dish washers and washing machines added.

Water ministers' council took over managing the scheme

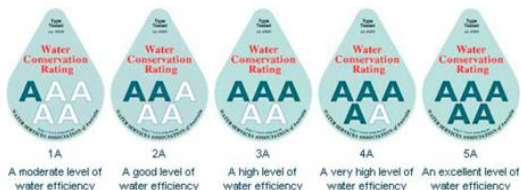
Toilets and taps added – limited uptake of scheme

Water utilities association took over managing the scheme

Urinals and flow controllers added.

Australia and New Zealand Governments agreed to implement a mandatory scheme

Legislated national scheme established

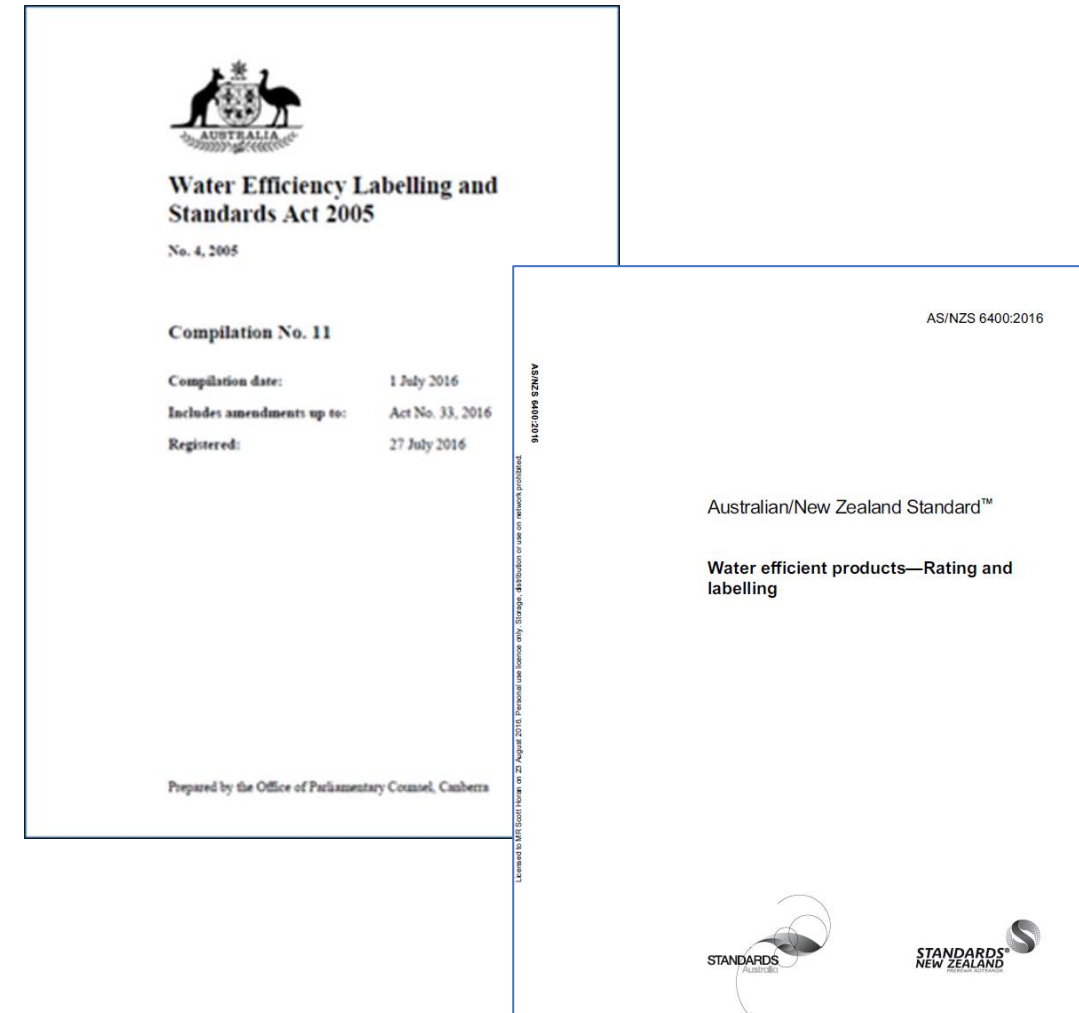


Standards Australia administer the scheme.



WELS scheme governance

- The WELS Act objectives are to:
 - Conserve water supplies
 - Inform consumers about water efficiency at the point of sale
 - Promote adoption of efficient and effective water saving technologies
- WELS product labelling standard: AS/NZS 6400:2016 Water efficient products - Rating and labelling
- Fees are paid to register products
- Regulated at the point of sale



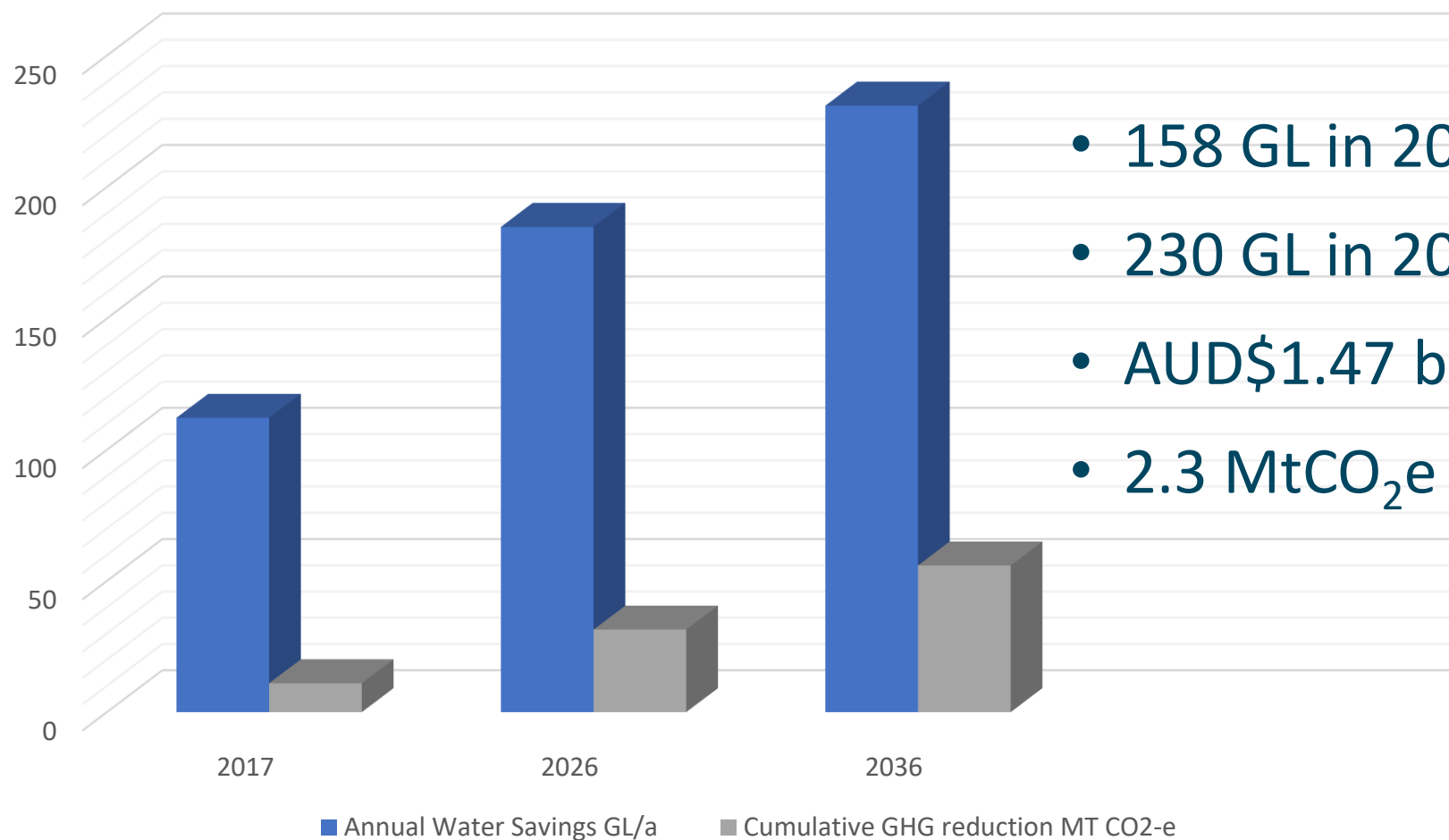
Products registered for the Australian market

Products and number of models in 2022

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| • Taps (not over a bath) | 13,000 |
| • Showers | 5,500 |
| • Toilets | 2,000 |
| • Urinals | 140 |
| • Flow controllers | 140 |
| • Dishwashers | 650 |
| • Washing machines | 550 |



Water and energy savings



- 158 GL in 2022
- 230 GL in 2036
- AUD\$1.47 billion in utility bills in 2022
- 2.3 MtCO₂e in 2022



Progress since 2005

- WELS Regulator established
 - Product registrations and public database
 - Compliance and enforcement of sales
 - Communication and education
- Consumers recognise and use the label
 - 69% of Australians recognise WELS label
- Manufacturing industry and retailers adjust
- Sustainable building schemes integrate WELS
 - NABERS, Green Star
- National building code integrates WELS and set minimum efficiency
- Regulator sets the minimum water efficiency of products that can be registered or sold
 - to 2 (urinals) or 3 stars (all others)

Winter 2022



"... Australia's WELS scheme has without a doubt changed the way engineers have designed the products for the future."

- Plumbing Test Consultant

PROVE Standards & Engineering

Who must comply with WELS legislation?

- Any person or business that supplies WELS products to the Australian market must comply with the WELS legislation.

This includes:

- Manufacturers who sell goods in Australia
- Importers or wholesalers who sell goods in Australia
- Retailers (in-store and online)
- Builders, developers or plumbers – WELS legislation applies if you supply WELS products as part of a new building, refurbishment or renovation.

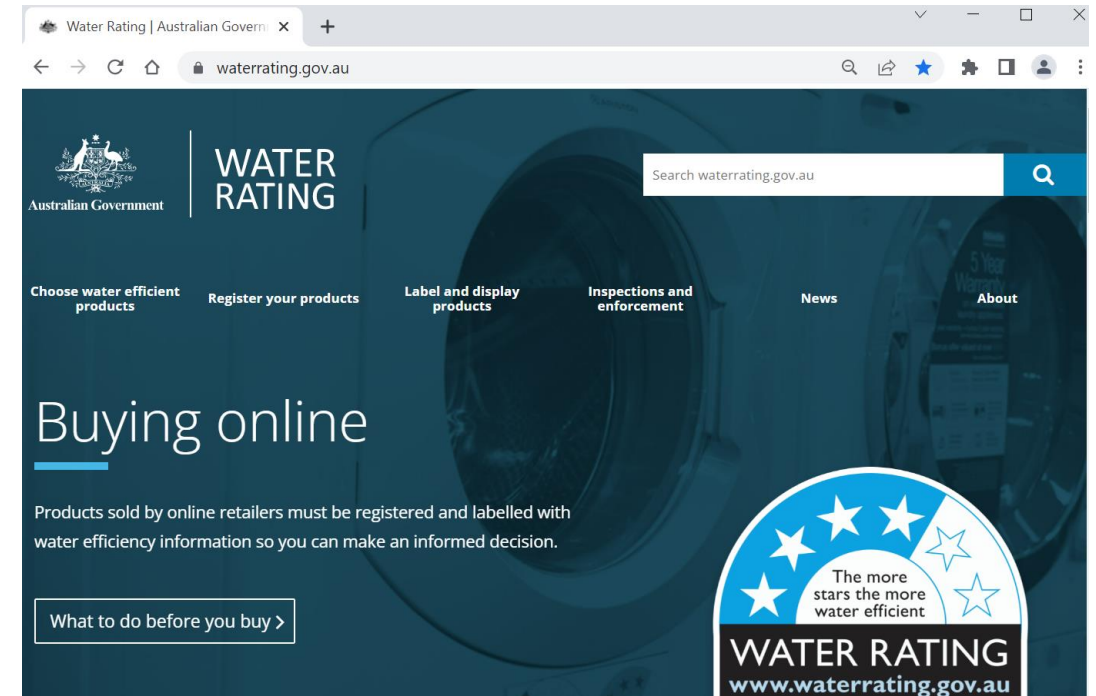
ISO 31600:2022



- ISO 31600:2022 Water efficiency labelling programmes – Requirements with guidance for implementation
- Countries with existing schemes can:
 - assess themselves against the ISO requirements and guidance.
 - identify what works well with other countries schemes and how they could improve their own.
- See www.iso.org/standard/76401.html

Further information

waterrating.gov.au



- Email wels@dcceew.gov.au to subscribe to our newsletter or for enquiries
- Visit our website www.waterrating.gov.au