

## **WA households reduce energy consumption**

Western Australian Premier Alan Carpenter says household co-operation in reducing their energy use over recent days has helped save vital energy supplies during the current gas shortage following the outage at the gas processing facility on Varanus Island. Carpenter recently made a community service announcement urging people to cut shower times, minimise use of heaters and turn off lights. The Government cited Western Power figures showing during the morning 'peak periods' on Friday 20 June 2008, Saturday 21 June and Sunday 22 June, householders saved between 60 MW and 88 MW of electricity each morning – a saving of between about two and six per cent on the forecast demand level. The Government says during the evening peak periods on the same days, the savings varied between 134 MW and 148 MW or between about five and six per cent on the forecast evening demand. "WA householders can make and are making a difference during the current energy shortage," says Carpenter. "This is a very encouraging result and shows that by working together, we are lessening the gas shortage impact on our families and on business, and helping avoid the potential for rolling blackouts," he adds. "A reduction of even 50 MW, or about two per cent, is enough electricity to power a city the size of Geraldton at any one point in time." he says. Carpenter has also asked Government agencies to take all possible steps to reduce gas and electricity use. Western Power is providing daily information about household energy use on its website.

[Source: esaa news]