

Companies sign up to improve energy efficiency

More than 200 corporations, which combined account for 60 per cent of Australia's energy use, have signed up to improve their energy efficiency.

Federal Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane says he has been encouraged by the response to the Federal Government's Energy Efficiency Opportunities program, with 211 companies to date registering for the scheme.

Under the Energy Efficiency Opportunities Act, which has been in force since July 2006, companies with an annual use of over half a petajoule of energy per year are required to register with the program and conduct rigorous energy use assessments.

Although companies are not obliged to provide their total energy use when registering for the program, most companies that have registered have done so, showing that a large proportion of business energy use is captured in the program, says Macfarlane.

"The figures show that businesses in the program use at least 1666 PJ of energy per year. This means that 60 per cent of business energy use is now being comprehensively assessed to improve energy efficiency," Macfarlane says. "

[Source esaa news]