

Senators scrutinize national Energy Efficiency Bill

The Energy Efficiencies Opportunity Bill 2005 has reached Committee stage in the Senate. Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell says the bill will not put more red tape on companies. Campbell says the bill “targets 250 companies [those using more than 0.5 petajoules per year], but these companies consume about 60 per cent of business energy use, so it is incredibly efficient if we can address the activities of these companies”. The bill establishes the framework for mandatory energy efficiency opportunities assessments and public reporting of outcomes by large energy using businesses, as announced by the Australian Government in its June 2004 energy white paper. The bill requires companies to register with the department, undertake energy efficiency opportunities assessment and report publicly on the outcomes of the assessment. It is expected that companies involved in the mining, petroleum and general services sectors will be affected by the bill. The bill does not specifically target energy producers.

[SOURCE ESAA NEWS]