



**The Hon Chris Hartcher**  
**Minister for Resources and Energy**  
**Special Minister of State**  
**Minister for the Central Coast**

---

**MEDIA RELEASE**

---

Wednesday 23 November 2011

**NSW GOVERNMENT REMOVES  
SHOWERHEADS FROM SCHEME**

The NSW Government has moved to cancel the showerhead component of the NSW Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) following recommendations from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) that it be removed.

IPART's "Compliance and Operation of the NSW Energy Savings Scheme during 2010" report raises concern over the continued integrity of the Scheme in regard to the mass-market residential program of showerhead sales and installations.

The report highlights the potential for inaccurate and possibly purposefully manipulated record-keeping, and notes that new showerheads are now mostly replacing previously installed low-flow showerheads.

In February 2011 IPART recommended changes to the Scheme after noticing that showerhead activities had shifted to door-to-door sales of ultra-low flow showerheads, rather than showerhead installation.

Fair Trading has also advised that there have been a number of complaints in regard to the door-to-door sales of these showerheads.

The program will be phased out completely by **22 December 2011**.

"The showerhead program has proved to be yet another botched Labor rort," Mr Hartcher said.

"In true Labor style, the showerhead component lacks the appropriate monitoring mechanisms leaving it wide-open to manipulation.

"We are now taking the responsible steps to close the program to prevent further potential for rorting."

The NSW Government remains committed to ensuring that the Energy Savings Scheme delivers on its objective to achieve energy savings.

"In addition to removing showerhead activities from the Scheme the NSW Government is now consulting on proposed changes to the ESS to broaden the

scope of energy saving activities and projects, as well as to maintain the integrity of ongoing energy savings,” Mr Hartcher said.

“The proposed ESS Rule amendments will create a new market for energy efficiency projects, replacing the showerheads component and providing new incentives for hotels, motels and electricity networks to save power.”

A consultation paper detailing the proposed changes is available on the NSW Trade & Investment website at [www.energy.nsw.gov.au](http://www.energy.nsw.gov.au)

Written submissions are invited until **12 December 2011** to [ess@dwe.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ess@dwe.nsw.gov.au)