

Energy Centre Network established

Australia's first gathering of Energy Centre Managers has been declared a resounding success by all participants. The conference, hosted by the Integrated Energy Management Centre in Tasmania from 15-16 September 1994, brought together key executives from energy technology centres from all states and territories. A unique feature of the conference was the fact that attendees were from centres representing all energy market sectors (domestic, commercial, and industrial) and a range of major fuel types (electricity, gas and solar).

The organiser of the event, Dr Peter Davis of the Integrated Energy Management Centre announced that as a result of the conference a five member working group had been established to examine the opportunities for establishing a network of information exchange between energy centres around the country. "Energy efficiency is a rapidly advancing field", Dr Davis said, "and it is important that all of us involved in conveying information to the public on energy options take advantage of our collective knowledge". The working group includes Denis Hally-Burton from the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Graham Sharley from the South Australian Energy Information Centre, Ken Sims from Pacific Power, and Stuart Major from the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria.

The conference was opened by Ted Pritchard, Chief Operations Officer of the Hydro-Electric Commission. In his opening remarks Mr Pritchard high-



Participants at the first Energy Centre Managers' meeting

lighted the significant restructuring occurring in the electricity industry, and the need for energy centres to supply services that are seen as relevant to both utilities and customers. This point was reinforced by the Conference Facilitator, Mr Geoff Pollard from the Victorian electricity industry. "As the energy market deregulates in Australia and industry executives grapple with the most significant changes occurring in their businesses since inception, energy centres are subjected to intense scrutiny" Mr Pollard said. "This first gathering of Centre Managers is very timely, as energy centres provide a valuable focus for energy efficiency and technology transfer activities in what are very turbulent times".

Whilst attending the conference delegates received demonstrations of Energy Victoria's House Energy Rating Software, and the Integrated Energy Management Centre's Touch Screen Energy Advisory System.

"These new technologies illustrate the sorts of systems where we will be able to share ideas in the future", Dr Davis said.

Based on the success of this first conference, it is likely that gatherings of energy centre managers and staff will become a regular event in the future. ■■■

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