

Gallop tests a 'friendly' home



ABOVE: Geoff Gallop's arm follows the heat being sucked out of the energy-friendly home by this "solar chimney".
LEFT: Ted Cunningham, MLA, joins Dr Gallop in the "Solarium", which is designed to heat the home in winter. A working family can save up to 60 per cent of its annual energy costs in a house like this.



GEOFF GALLOP, new President of the ALP and Minister for Fuel and Energy, was most impressed recently when he inspected an "energy-friendly" home in Bayswater.

The home, designed for a working family, would up to 60 per cent of their annual costs for electricity and gas.

"Energy-friendly" homes fulfil the Labor ideal of quality of life at an affordable cost. But project homes in WA fall short of the energy-efficient ideal.

Substantial saving of both energy and energy costs in the housing sector requires the widespread availability of energy-efficient homes at the lower end of the price bracket.

It was with this in mind that Dr Geoff Gallop inspected the Bays-

water house. He then told Labor Voice: Energy efficiency is one of the most important facets in decision-making today. It is central to improving the quality of life of all West Australians."

The house he inspected is of 125 square metres in area, the size of a standard project Perth home. The house really looks no different from a conventional project home but it enables 60 per cent of the energy bills of an average family to be saved because of its special solar features.

The average energy cost for a conventional home of this size would be between \$900 and \$1200 a year, but this home could be occupied for about \$360 dol-

lars a year for electricity and gas.

Thoughtful design makes these savings possible. In this case the architect was Gary Baverstock.

To minimise the need for heating and cooling special blinds have been installed. They have a thin aluminium backing which can prevent over half the potential heat gain during the summer and almost half the heat loss during the winter nights.

A special "solar pergola" and "solar chimney" ensures that any build up of heat in summer is removed from the roof space and from the roofs.

This display is built close to the Bayswater Railway station (railways being the most energy effi-

cient form of transport). It was also built on a small 480-square metre block.

To ensure that the family can make maximum use of the small block, the living areas are fully integrated with the garden.

Dr Gallop noted that the low-density nature of Perth meant that it was very difficult to maintain an efficient public transport system, so that many people had to waste much energy and money on running private cars.

He said he would be doing everything to promote energy-efficient housing in the future.

Members can also inspect the home by arrangement with the Solar Energy Information Centre, 474 2770.

Solar 'chimney' takes the heat out of the kitchen