



The Hon Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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Raising a chilled glass to lower energy use

NSW Minister for the Environment Robyn Parker joined winemaker Mark Davidson at the Tamburlaine Winery in the Hunter Valley for a first-hand look at how the vineyard has managed to slash its power use by half and save the business \$110,000 a year.

Minister Parker said that while energy efficiency and refrigeration are probably the last thing on most people's minds when they're enjoying a nice glass of wine at the end of a long week - but they're not for the winemaker.

"The reality for wineries and hundreds of other businesses in the NSW food and beverage industry is that escalating power costs and the threat of the carbon tax are having significant implications in escalating industrial refrigeration costs," Ms Parker said.

"Refrigeration is the biggest energy use for most food and beverage industry businesses - from abattoirs to bakeries, cold stores, dairy processors and food, beverage and pet food manufacturers.

"Industrial refrigeration costs can be reduced by a staggering 40% or more and it demonstrates, using concrete data from the experience of companies like Tamburlaine, what technologies are available, how much they will cost and how much will be saved," she said.

"At the end of the day, if NSW businesses save power and therefore money, that's going to have long-term benefits for the business, consumers and the broader NSW economy.

Tamburlaine's success story is featured in a new Energy Saver Technology report on Industrial refrigeration and chilled glycol and water applications, prepared by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and released by the Minister this week.

Tamburlaine's managing director Mark Davidson said an energy audit conducted through the Government's Sustainability Advantage Energy Saver program last year showed refrigeration accounted for 75% of the winery's energy use. Actions to improve efficiency are saving \$110,000 a year and will pay for themselves in less than two years.

"I thought I must have misheard my environment manager when he told me how much money we could save," Mr Davidson said.

"The energy audit identified the problem and helped us break some old and wasteful energy habits.

"By doing some really simple things such as running time and thermostat controls, upgrading heat exchangers and making pipe work modifications, we have reduced our overall electricity use by 48 per cent and our refrigeration energy use by 54 per cent."

“This is resulting in significant benefits to the business. Not only in cost savings, but also because it aligns the way we operate with our business philosophy of minimising our impact on the environment.”

Ms Parker said the Energy Saver Technology Report: Industrial refrigeration and chilled glycol and water applications, details 15 energy saving technologies available to increase the energy efficiency of industrial refrigeration plants.

For each technology the annual energy consumption, capital costs and payback periods have been estimated using real-life data and experiences from businesses that have participated in the NSW Government’s Energy Saver program.

The report is available online at www.environment.nsw.gov.au.

Media Contact: Kelly Stevens0419-469-367