

Media release | 28 March 2012

ETSA Utilities lighting the way on recycling

ETSA Utilities is delighted to be the first electricity distributor in Australia to become a Signatory in the Federal Government's FluoroCycle Scheme, which aims to increase recycling of mercury-containing street lamps and reduce the amount of mercury entering the environment.

Across Australia an estimated 95 per cent of lamps that contain mercury end up in landfill each year. They are the largest single category of consumer products that contain mercury, and their disposal contributes significantly to Australia's total annual emissions of mercury.

ETSA Utilities Chief Executive, Rob Stobbe, said ETSA Utilities was proud to take a leading role in the environmentally responsible management of mercury-bearing lamps.

"We are the main provider of public lighting services in South Australia, with responsibility for more than 200,000 public streetlights, so we are well placed to make a significant, positive impact on the amount of mercury entering the environment," Rob said.

"We have been recycling our street lights for more than fifteen years, resulting in around 150 tonnes of waste being diverted from landfill into resource recovery.

"This includes approximately 22 tonnes of mercury bearing waste which has been processed by CMA EcoCycle for recovery and recycling. This relationship will continue as we meet our ongoing commitment under the FluoroCycle Scheme.

"Our commitment to recycling and resource recovery also extends to other areas of the business – in recent years we have recycled some 2,400 tonnes of scrap metal as well as about 370,600 litres of oil," Rob said.

"Becoming a FluoroCycle Scheme Signatory complements ETSA Utilities' current and future sustainability initiatives. It also recognises our dedication to environmentally responsible waste management and resource recovery across all business operations."

The Administrator of FluoroCycle, Lighting Council Australia, said it was delighted to welcome ETSA Utilities as the first electricity utility member of the FluoroCycle Scheme.

Lighting Council Australia's CEO, Bryan Douglas, commented that electricity utilities were major users of mercury-containing lamps and that ETSA Utilities had adopted a commendable leadership role.

For more information visit www.fluorocycle.org.au.

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About ETSA Utilities

ETSA Utilities is South Australia's electricity distributor, delivering electricity to about 830,000 customers over an area of 178,200 km². With our head office at Keswick, we are one of South Australia's largest organisations, employing more than 1,900 people throughout metropolitan and regional SA. ETSA Utilities is 51 percent owned by Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited and Power Assets Holdings Ltd, which form part of the Cheung Kong Group of companies. The remaining 49 percent is owned by Spark Infrastructure which is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange.