



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

28 October 2018

### **FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

**Media contact:** For further information contact Ian Jarratt at [ijarratt@australiainmail.com](mailto:ijarratt@australiainmail.com) or phone 07 37195475 mob 0448012482

# **Consumers want more help to reduce the cost of keeping cool**

The Queensland Consumers Association wants governments and industry to do much more to help consumers reduce the cost of using air conditioners when temperatures and humidity levels are high.

The Association is particularly concerned about the lack of information available for consumers about **using air conditioners in eco/econ mode**.

Association spokesperson, Ian Jarratt, says many air conditioners now have an eco/econ mode, yet few people probably know this and even fewer actually use that mode.

The Association's own investigations suggest that using the eco/econ mode can substantially reduce the amount of power used by air conditioners, without significantly reducing comfort levels.

However, most sources of information on using power more efficiently, including official websites, do not even mention using air conditioners in eco/econ mode, and there is a great lack of publicly available information about the likely impacts on power consumption and comfort levels in Australia.

The Association says that this is completely unacceptable to consumers because:

- Many consumers struggle with high power bills and want to use power more efficiently.
- Using the eco/econ mode could be an easy and simple way for many consumers to significantly lower power consumption and bills.
- Power usage by home air conditioners is a major cause of high peak power demand which results in higher distribution and generation costs.

Ian Jarratt says governments and industry need to give high priority to:

- getting consumers more aware of the existence of eco/econ mode in air conditioners, and
- providing easy to understand information for consumers about how using the eco/econ mode may result in lower power consumption and bills.

The specific actions needed to achieve this include:

- Publicising the existence of the eco/econ mode available on many air conditioners.
- Encouraging consumers to try using the eco/econ mode.
- Reviewing the information currently available on the effects on power consumption and comfort levels of using the eco/econ mode and, if required, conducting new research/experiments.
- Publicising information about the effects on power consumption and comfort levels of using eco/econ mode.
- In future, requiring air conditioner manufacturers to provide potential buyers with information about the power consumption when used in eco/econ mode.

Meantime, the Association says consumers should check whether they have any air conditioners with eco/econ mode, and if so to activate it when the air conditioner is next used.

Then they can assess the whether the comfort level is satisfactory and the impact on power use and bills.

The can also seek information and advice from manufacturers, retailers, etc. about the likely effects of running a particular air conditioner in eco/econ mode.