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Dear XXXXX,

## CAR WASH WATER SAVER RATING SCHEME

The Car Wash Water Saver Rating Scheme enables responsible car wash operators to demonstrate their high environmental standards in both water use and the disposal of waste water to sewer. It provides a unified branded benchmark, which has been developed to help secure the future of commercial car washes even in times of severe water shortages. While being a national standard, it is also flexible enough for compliance with local water restrictions.

The Scheme is for all members of the vehicle washing industry and is administered by the Australian Car Wash Association on a non-profit basis. At the moment membership is voluntary but we urge you to join and support this most worthwhile industry program.

### As a member of the scheme you will benefit by:

- **gaining more security of continued operation** - when rainfall is so low that water restrictions are declared. The water rating scheme is accepted in a growing number of States and water authority areas as a minimum requirement for being allowed to continue operating using mains water supplies.
- **using the star rating signage to promote your car wash and attract new customers** – our market research tells us that many customers prefer to use car washes that they know are using a minimum amount of water to wash their cars. This applies everywhere, not only in those areas where water restrictions are in force. With eye catching standardised signage promoting an environmentally caring image, more car owners will be attracted to using your car wash.

Enclosed is a form to fill in and return to register for the scheme. Once you have registered, an Application Kit will be sent to you to begin the assessment process to join the Car Wash Water Saver Rating Scheme. Once the site assessment is audited and the Agreement is signed, your car wash will receive its star rating and signage, and can begin to enjoy the benefits of being part of this exciting program.

Yours sincerely,

Reg Jarvis  
Water Rating Scheme Manager



Car Wash Water Saver Rating Scheme  
P O Box 196, Vermont, Victoria 3133  
Email: [info@waterratingscheme.net.au](mailto:info@waterratingscheme.net.au) Telephone: 0400 070 417  
Website: [www.waterratingscheme.net.au](http://www.waterratingscheme.net.au) Fax: 03 9898 5730

The Car Wash Water Saver Rating Scheme is administered by the Australian Car Wash Association  
ABN 83 395 197 691

## HOW THE WATER RATING SCHEME WORKS

The Car Wash Water Rating Scheme measures the amount of mains potable (drinking) water used by car wash equipment in a defined standard wash, and then rates that equipment on its water efficiency. If one site has two or more types of equipment, they are rated separately and the rating signs must be displayed so as to clearly identify which rating applies to each type of equipment.

The rating Scheme uses the well-understood star rating system – five stars being the best result, which indicates the lowest amount of potable water used per wash.

Initially the amount of water used is assessed by the owner/operator of the site using a detailed self-assessment guide provided to them. This is backed by an Agreement and Code of Practice document which the owner/operator signs.

A newly-rated site must be independently audited within 3 months of being accepted into the Scheme. Ecowise, a national and experienced audit firm, has been appointed as the Scheme's auditor. Independent auditors can also be used, as long as they have been trained and certificated by Ecowise.

Once a car wash has been successfully audited, it will receive rating signage and a public information poster to display, plus additional promotional materials.

Continuing annual compliance and registration in the Scheme is by means of regular water meter readings and random independent audits to ensure that the initial water efficiency standards are maintained. The cost of the random audits is included in the annual renewal fee and is not charged to the sites audited.

## What happens after I return the Registration form

Once we receive your Registration form and initial fee, you will:

- receive an Application Kit which includes a water rating Self Assessment Guide, Agreement and Code of Practice for each of your nominated sites
- follow the instructions in the self assessment guide to measure your site/s preliminary water rating/s
- for each site, send back to the WRS Manager the completed self-assessment form(s) and signed agreement.
- keep a copy of the self-assessment on site ready for the audit visit.

The site self assessment results will be reviewed by the Water Rating Scheme manager, who will contact you if necessary for further information about your self-assessment and/or other details.

Your contact details will then be forwarded to the auditors. They will make arrangements directly with you for the audit to take place. Once this has been done, they will send a compliance certificate to the WRS manager, setting out the star rating achieved for each type of equipment.

## Rating Levels

Current star rating levels are set out below. These ratings have been approved by the federal Smart Approved Water Mark, but only those car washes achieving 5 star status are entitled to display the SAWM logo and to claim accreditation under that program.

Local drought regulations may have lower literage requirements with which the car wash will have to comply. Note that the WRS sign includes the line "Working within water restrictions" to acknowledge that fact.

Star rating	Number of litres per wash
3	121-140
4	101-120
5	up to 100

## What happens after I am accepted into the Scheme

Once your sites have been accepted into the Scheme you will:

1. receive a Welcome Kit which includes a design portfolio with style guide, marketing advice, a Best Practice Guide for water conservation, and a Water Conservation Plan template.
2. receive your rating signs which must be displayed in an approved manner

## Scheme Fees

The Australian Car Wash Association (ACWA) is operating the Water Rating Scheme as a non-profit program for the industry. Fees are levied per car wash site and are higher if there is more than one type of equipment on site. Fees include signage, a design portfolio, administrative costs and national marketing.

In recognition of the long term voluntary contribution made by members of ACWA in developing and administering the Scheme, and the ongoing overheads contribution by ACWA, members of ACWA will receive a significant discount on scheme fees. Owners of more than 5 sites also receive a 25% discount per site.

Major chains with more than 20 sites should contact the WRS manager for details of special arrangements for registration and audit.

The independent audit fee is charged separately by the auditor of each car wash site. You should be aware that if the audit is not able to be completed when booked, due to problems on site, you will be charged additional fees for a subsequent visit. An indication of expected audit fees is given below.

<b>FEES PER SITE **</b>	<b>One type of equipment</b>	<b>Two types of equipment</b>
<b>Joining Year Licence Fees - including signage</b>		
ACWA members	\$ 420	\$ 510
Non-members	\$ 700	\$ 850
Multiple sites (more than 5)	25% discount on all above rates per site	
<b>Subsequent Year Licence Fees</b>		
ACWA members	\$ 180	\$ 220
Non-members	\$ 300	\$ 367
Multiple sites (more than 5)	25% discount on all above rates per site	
<b>Anticipated audit fee (estimate only)</b>		
All sites	\$ 400 - 500	\$ 480 - 600

\*\*all fees are quoted GST exclusive

## Not rated equipment

All equipment on the site must be rated to ensure that customers are not confused about the water efficiency of each type of car wash sharing a site.

Where a site has MORE THAN ONE type of car wash equipment, one of which is assessed as using more potable water per wash than is permitted under the star rating limits, the site cannot receive the "star" rating signage until all types of equipment comply.

# WATER RATING SCHEME Registration Form

Please complete and return with payment to the Water Rating Scheme Manager at the address below:

Business name:.....

Contact name: .....

Email address: .....

Postal Address:.....

.....

Phone number(s): Business: ..... Personal: .....

Mobile: ..... Fax: .....

ACWA Member: Yes / No If yes, please state your membership number: .....

If "no", and you would like to join, please phone ACWA on 1300 22 2292 or email [contact@acwa.net.au](mailto:contact@acwa.net.au) and a membership kit will be sent to you. Once your membership fees have been received by ACWA, you will be able to claim ACWA member rates for these registration fees.

EQUIPMENT ON SITE: Please note that ALL equipment on site must be assessed and rated

Self serve: ..... bays Hand wash: describe type.....

Auto: .....bays type of machine(s).....

Payment details:

	Fee per site (from table above)	number of sites	Total fee payable
One type of equipment on site			
Two types of equipment on site			
Sub-total for multiple sites (6+)			
Multiple sites – 25% discount			
Total excluding tax			
GST at 10%			
Grand total including tax			

Payment can be by cheque made out to Car Wash Water Rating Scheme, or by credit card (VISA or MASTERCARD only). A tax invoice will be sent to you on receipt of payment.

NAME ON CARD:.....SIGNATURE:.....

Please circle VISA MASTERCARD Card No:..... Exp Date:.....

Total amount paying: \$.....

Send this Registration Form to: The Scheme Manager  
(with your fees) Car Wash Water Rating Scheme  
P O Box 196, VERMONT, Victoria 3133

If you are paying by credit card and can complete the Registration Form on your computer, then please email the completed registration to: [info@waterratingscheme.net.au](mailto:info@waterratingscheme.net.au)