

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Ronan Carroll Ph: 5150 4434



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Sponsorship for local schools entering energy-efficient vehicle challenge

East Gippsland Water has joined forces with engineering consultants MWH Australia to sponsor local schools participating in this year's *RACV Energy Breakthrough* program.

Up to \$1,000 is available to each school taking part in the initiative, which challenges primary and secondary school students to design and build innovative, energy-efficient vehicles exhibiting minimal environmental impact. They then put them through their paces over a major three-day event at Maryborough in November.

The challenge is billed by organisers as a great opportunity for students, teachers, parents and industry to work together to develop innovative solutions. Participants are encouraged to examine and use the latest technology, while also considering its impact on the environment and the way people live locally and globally.

This initiative complements the commitment of East Gippsland Water and MWH Australia to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment.

Said East Gippsland Water's Managing Director, Bruce Hammond: "The need to cut greenhouse gas emissions and reduce energy consumption is a top priority for us, as it is for the rest of the community. We and MWH Australia are keen to add our local support to very worthwhile initiatives like the *RACV Energy Breakthrough* program, which helps foster environmental debate amongst young people in a fun and stimulating way, and provides a valuable educational opportunity."

Participating primary and secondary schools interested in East Gippsland Water and MWH Australia as sponsors should contact East Gippsland Water's Communications Manager Ronan Carroll on 5150 4434.

To qualify, schools must be located in East Gippsland. Each application will be considered on its merits, with sponsorship also including an opportunity for schools to place their energy-efficient vehicles on public display in the main foyer of East Gippsland Water's Bairnsdale office.

Ends