



## Sunraysia Energy Savers *Lyn and Colin*

Lyn and Colin are a semi retired couple who have lived in Mildura for 30 years. They moved to their current home 8 years ago. Their meticulously maintained 3 bedroom home is a testament to their attention to detail and the pride they take in their home. Even though Stephen is engaged in the renewable energy industry, he wanted to explore ways to make their home more energy efficient.

### About the Sunraysia Energy Savers Project:

The aim of the *Sunraysia Energy Savers Project* was to reduce carbon emissions by 20% through home energy assessment, appliance auditing and draught proofing. Nineteen householders elected to participate in the inaugural energy efficiency program with Mildura Rural City Council. The Council elected *ecoMaster* as their project partner due to their award winning energy efficiency background, product knowledge, assessment skills and quality installation capability.

The program successfully achieved its target with a carbon saving of 20.6% for the households who completed the program. This achievement is quite remarkable as this group of households were already operating at 53% of the national average. The biggest savers of the program cut nearly half of their energy consumption: 43.9% to be exact. This is an extraordinary result as the household was operating at 42% of the national average; they now run their home at 22%! Financially, they are saving \$578 a year.

Lyn and Colin were keen participants in this program and *ecoMaster's* assessment highlighted a number of areas where they could further reduce their energy consumption.

“The program successfully achieved its target with a carbon saving of 20.6%”

Whilst Lyn and Colin's ceiling and wall insulation was in good condition, some areas of their home were draughty. Their open plan home was great in some respects, but difficult to zone off. This meant that heating and cooling was working in areas that they didn't really need and they were spending more money than necessary to live comfortably.

“It was an opportunity to learn ways to cut down our energy use and also see if our home was letting heat in or out.”

There was already some form of draught proofing at the front door but it had been a 'problem child', jamming from time to time and making it difficult to open the door. *ecoMaster* replaced the existing material with professional draught proofing products, (including *ecoMaster's* own architectural perimeter seal, *Draught Dodgers*), on the front entrance, external aluminium doors and the internal sliding doors.

These 'zoning' measures ensured that their heating and cooling systems were only working in the areas needed. As an added bonus, the home retained that conditioned air for much longer. Colin was particularly pleased with the energy monitor installed. It displays the home's energy consumption in real time, giving you immediate feedback when appliances are turned on and off.

What's next on their journey to create a more comfortable and energy efficient home? Lyn and Colin are working towards improving their solar control, installing outside blinds for the western windows and a deciduous tree to shade the front bedroom windows.