

# Hawker Primary School Power rangers cut down energy use

Power Rangers are integral to reducing Hawker Primary's energy consumption. They remind teachers, students and parents that saving the environment starts with reducing your energy needs.

## Profile

Hawker Primary School opened in 1976 and has around 400 students. The school's environment program is central to its identity, culture and values and core to each student's academic and social development.

**Actsmart Schools** awarded Hawker Primary School its **Five Star Accreditation** in 2015. The school continues to excel in sustainable management of energy, waste, water, school grounds/biodiversity and integrating sustainability into the curriculum.

The school mentors Hawker Preschool, Belconnen High School and Hawker College in establishing environmental systems and reducing the schools' ecological footprint.



## Background

The Hawker Primary School Power Rangers are leaders in engaging the whole school community in energy saving behaviours.

The Power Rangers were one of the first teams to receive a free **Actsmart Schools Energy Action Kit**. The kit encourages student leaders to create and deliver their own energy-saving messages in a fun and engaging way.

The Energy Action Kit contains assembly quiz cards, capes and masks, stickers, monitoring sheets and certificates to engage the school in saving energy.

## Focus on energy

Hawker Primary School received energy efficiency infrastructure upgrades through the Education Directorate. These upgrades included replacing lights with LEDs and installing a 10kW solar panel system that returns funds to the school from electricity generated.

The school puts the funds saved back into the environment program and gardens.





The student Power Rangers have contributed to the school's decreasing energy usage. They promote simple behaviour change messages including:

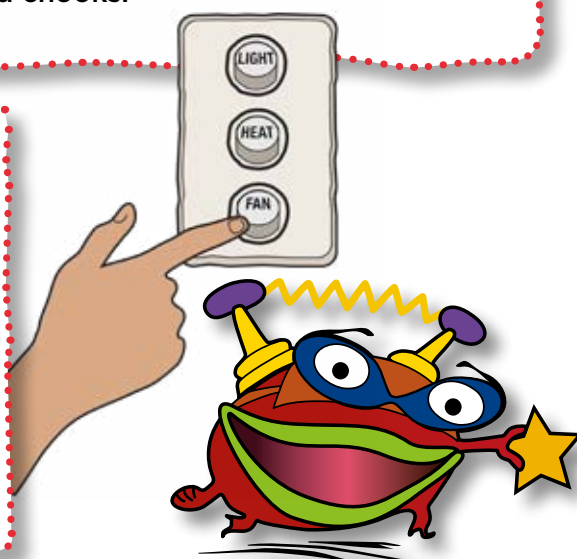
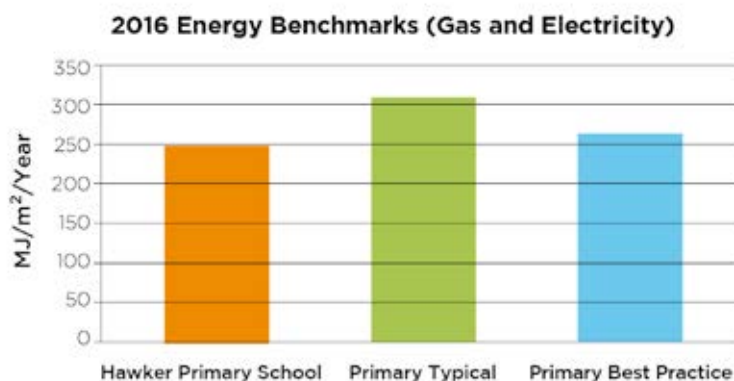
- posters on doors: 'Please close this door. Keep this building warm and save energy.'
- signs near light switches: 'Please turn off the lights when this room is not occupied.'
- presentations at assembly include Power Ranger Awards, golden bin and Waste-Wise Day awards.
- power rangers: check classrooms at lunch time dressed in capes and masks and stick an Energy Mite on the board if lights and unnecessary appliances have been turned off. Energy Mites are a form of positive reinforcement.

## Results and Benefits

Hawker Primary School has successfully reduced its electricity and gas consumption to 'better than' best practice for ACT primary schools. The school has seen a positive saving due to decreased gas and electricity usage.

## Tips and Hints

- Start small and engage student leadership. When students are given responsibility and leadership opportunities, they take ownership and become advocates for change.
- Student teams are successful at generating drive and enthusiasm for projects because they are already part of the student body.
- Schools with an active student team combined with infrastructure improvements will achieve *Actsmart Schools* accreditation for energy, waste, water, school grounds/ biodiversity or curriculum.
- Parents are actively involved in sustainability initiatives. Parents help maintain the fish tanks, vegetable garden, recycling bins, compost bin and chooks.



Watch this story as a video: search 'Actsmart Schools' on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)