



NEWS

Cut power bills

John Morcombe

ONE simple, hand-held device has the potential to save local residents hundreds of dollars on power bills.

Both Manly and Warringah councils have the device, called the "Power Mate Lite", available for loan from their local libraries, while Pittwater also has a similar unit available.

It measures the electricity use of individual household appliances, calculating both the running cost and related greenhouse gas emissions of electrical items.

Manly Council climate change education officer Sonya Tirtajaya said the device was a great educational tool to help residents adjust their appliance use and reduce power bills.

"From my experience, a lot of people don't know how to interpret efficiency information when they buy a product," she said.

"This device puts things in perspective, because they now can find out how much energy appliances are actually using."

Ms Tirtajaya said while fridges, air conditioners and heaters all consumed large amounts of electricity, steps could be taken to re-



Sonya Tirtajaya with the Power Mate Lite, a device for measuring the energy consumption of household electrical appliances

duce the power drain.

"Make sure your fridge is working to its full effect and that there's no leaking air escaping from the seals," she said.

Ms Tirtajaya said improving shading and ventilation in homes could reduce people's reliance on air conditioning, with fans also an alternative.