

MEDIA RELEASE

Sydney families playing a bit part securing our water supply

Embargoed Saturday 14 March 2009

NSW Water Minister Phil Costa today released a progress report on the Government's *Metropolitan Water Plan* that shows Sydney families are playing a big part delivering key efficiency targets.

Mr Costa said that using water responsibly combined with recycling, infrastructure and supply strategies contained within the Plan has meant Greater Sydney's water supply is in good shape.

"The 2008 Progress Report, which has been reviewed and endorsed by an independent panel of non-government experts, shows the implementation of the *Metropolitan Water Plan* is on track," said Mr Costa.

"Mums and Dads across Sydney are doing a great job saving water in the family home.

"At least one four households are using water-saving devices.

"The Government has provided more than 140,000 rebates for efficient washing machines as well almost 200,000 free Do-It-Yourself Water Saving Kits.

"By 2015, wise water use will save 24 per cent of our water needs," he said.

Mr Costa also said the environment had been a big winner from the successful implementation of measures in the Plan and increased storage.

"The successful application of the *Metropolitan Water Plan* has allowed a three-year moratorium on water transfers from the Shoalhaven to augment Sydney's drinking supply and the release of environmental flows from Avon Dam for the first time," he said.

"Environmental flows across the Greater Sydney Catchment have been restored to pre-drought levels.

"Without a healthy environment we cannot have a healthy water supply," he said.

Mr Costa said Sydney's water supply is secure thanks to a four-pronged approach to water management.

"Dams, recycling, desalination plus water efficiency equals water for life," he said.

"Sydney is well prepared for drought, a changing climate and a growing population.

"All major new infrastructure projects are on schedule and 95 per cent of listed actions have been completed or are on target. This is in addition to 27 completed items from the 2007 Progress Report."

"By 2015 recycled water will provide 12 per cent of Sydney's water needs, desalination will provide up to 15 per cent and water efficiency measures will save up to 24 per cent of water requirements."

The 2008 Progress Report and video are available to view online at www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au.

Please see over for some quick water facts

Water Facts

- Current dam storage 59.1%
- Households use about 70% of water supplied to Greater Sydney
- Despite there being 1.3 million more people, households are using the same amount of water as in the 1970s
- The target by 2015 is to save 145 billion litres per annum, saving 24% of our water needs
- New homes approved for construction are designed to use 40% less drinking water from our central supply

Efficiency and Rebate Programs

- Almost 500,000 WaterFix kits for houses saving 9.86 billion litres of water per year
- Every Drop Counts Business Program saving 14 billion litres of water each year
- Almost 200,000 Do-IT-Yourself Saving Kits
- Over 140,000 washing machines
- Over 50,000 for household rain water tanks
- Over 300 rain water tanks for schools
- Recently announced a toilet replacement program to replace 20,000 single flush toilets with dual-flush models

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