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### **RANN EASES WATER RESTRICTIONS OVER SUMMER**

Premier Mike Rann says a very slight improvement in expected rainfalls in the Adelaide Hills means domestic water restrictions will be eased to allow for drippers and hand-held watering for one day a week from October 1.

These restrictions are more comparable to those now in place in both Sydney and Melbourne.

Mr Rann says that South Australians were asked to let nature do the watering over the winter months to help conserve water for the hotter months.

“People have been doing a great job. I am told we have saved more than 23 billion litres of water this year compared to the last drought year in 2002/03.

“Unfortunately, winter rains across the Basin have not produced the run off needed to significantly reduce restrictions.

“However final analysis of the end of August data has resulted in an improvement of 18 gigalitres in the available water for allocation from the River Murray which will allow irrigators’ water allocations to rise to 16 per cent.

“SA Water has now advised us that there is 11 gigalitres better runoff in the Adelaide Hills than anticipated, which has enabled us to provide for a marginal improvement for domestic water use.

“From October 1 this year, irrigators’ allocations will be increased to 16 percent and domestic consumers will be able to use drippers or hand held hoses with a trigger nozzle for 3 hours per week – from either 6 am to 9 am or 5 pm to 8 pm.

“The same odds and evens system on weekends that was in operation last summer will again apply. (Evens on Saturday – odds on Sunday).

“The current ban on sprinklers will remain and the Government will continue to work with industry to improve their water efficiency.”

Mr Rann says that the slight easing of restrictions does not indicate an improvement in our overall outlook.

“The Murray Darling Basin is still in the grips of the most severe drought on record, and we must continue to be vigilant in saving water.

“I would again like to thank all South Australians for their co-operation in these tough times in minimising outside and inside water use and making sure that water wastage is part of the past.

“Close monitoring of water use will continue, and restrictions will be reviewed monthly based on available water and levels of use,” Mr Rann said.