

Thursday, 30 October 2008

### NEW FLEXIBLE WATERING TIMES

Greater flexibility is to be introduced into the current water restrictions from Monday in recognition that some gardens may require a mid-week watering as summer approaches.

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says that from November 3, households will have the option of spreading their current three-hour a week watering times across two days.

“We have been listening to the community and while they have been very supportive of the current water restrictions, there has been a plea for more flexible arrangements,” Minister Maywald says.

“Thanks to the magnificent effort South Australians have made in reducing water consumption, the Government believes there is now scope to introduce added flexibility within the current restrictions.

“The advice from the SA Water Customer Council, the Urban Water Drought Reference Group and the gardening professionals is that such a flexible arrangement will reduce the risk of over-watering and provide a better chance of our trees and gardens surviving yet another dry summer.

“In adopting these new arrangements, I am sure the overwhelming number of households will do the right thing, as they have already demonstrated since the introduction of enhanced water restrictions.”

“SA Water will be carefully monitoring water use every week and keeping track of any trends in increased water use.

“All indications are we’re in for only an average rainfall summer so we need all South Australians to continue being vigilant and we thank them for their efforts.”

A maximum watering period of three hours remains but householders will have more options regarding how they spilt those hours.

Under the new arrangements within the current enhanced level three restrictions hand-held hoses or drippers will be permitted for a maximum of 3 hours a week during the following times:

- **Even numbered houses: Tuesday & Saturday, 6-9am or 6-9pm**
- **Odd numbered houses: Wednesday & Sunday, 6-9am or 6-9pm**

“While we are not relaxing or easing water restrictions, we are building more flexibility into the system for householders,” Minister Maywald says.

The current rules that allow watering cans and buckets to be used any time on any day of the week remain unchanged.

Minister Maywald says the latest SA Water statistics show South Australians continue to demonstrate their willingness to reduce water consumption since the severe drought year of 2002.

South Australians are also estimated to have saved hundreds of millions of litres of water around the home through the State Government's H2OME Rebates.

"This year to date, we have saved 40 billion litres of water compared to the same time in 2002, which is a great effort," Minister Maywald says.

Minister Maywald says the South Australian community is continuing to respond exceptionally well to restrictions and recent water savings show householders are keen to play their part in conserving water.

"The Government is now placing greater trust in the community to keep watering to a minimum, while offering more flexibility in how that water is used," Minister Maywald says.

"I am confident with these change in place, the community can continue to build on the substantial savings that have already been achieved."

"We all have a responsibility to keep saving water during this drought and into the longer term."

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