

Wednesday, 31 October, 2007

WATER RESTRICTIONS TO STAY FOR NOVEMBER

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says current domestic water restrictions will continue into November as drought conditions worsen in the Murray-Darling Basin and Adelaide Hills.

“Householders can continue to use drippers and hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle for up to three hours a week, even houses on Saturdays, odds on Sundays, from 6-9am or 5-8pm,” she said.

“Watering cans and buckets can be used at any time, but sprinklers will continue to be banned.

“All other Level 3 restrictions for car washing, swimming pools, fountains and ponds remain unchanged. There are no restrictions on the use of rainwater.

“While water consumption has increased under the slightly eased restrictions, this was expected, particularly because of the warmer and drier conditions we’ve been experiencing.

“However, householders are encouraged not to leave their drippers on for the full three-hour period and to only water if their garden requires it.

“Today I am providing a target for water consumption in 2007-08 for Adelaide under the current restrictions. (See graph attached)

“As the drought continues, if water consumption in Adelaide remains below this target, then the current restrictions will be able to be maintained right through summer.

“The target has been set based on comparisons of water consumption, rainfall and inflows across a number of years including 2006, the worst drought year on record; 2002, the second worst year on record; and the 10-year average for water use.

“Provided water is used responsibly, there is every expectation there is sufficient water available to continue the current restrictions over the summer months and now all householders will be able to track our water use against the target.

“Decisions on restrictions will be made on the basis of rainfall and scientific advice – and this will continue in determining future policy on restrictions.

“Current water consumption is below levels in 2006 and the previous drought year in 2002, so this is a positive sign that Adelaide is conserving water and customers are to be congratulated on their efforts.

“The State Government will continue to monitor water consumption on a month by month basis and will not compare weekend use, which can be misleading.

“The capacity for water savings in Adelaide is strongly linked to rainfall and so we will continue to compare current monthly consumption with previous drought years, such as 2006 and 2002.”

The target for Adelaide water consumption graph will be updated weekly and will be available at www.sawater.com.au.

