



Government
of South Australia

Media Release

23 December 2009



Minister Karlene Maywald

Minister for the River Murray
Minister for Water Security

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis

President
Local Government Association
Of South Australia

SHOWERHEAD EXCHANGE: 1 BLN LITRES SAVED AND STILL COUNTING

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald said today South Australians have already saved an estimated one billion litres of water under the WaterWise Communities' *Swap and Save* showerhead exchange program.

Minister Maywald said the State Government and Local Government Association worked together on this initiative to exchange old inefficient showerheads for new water saving models.

"This program recently marked the major milestone of exchanging its 28,000th showerhead, equivalent to an estimated cumulative saving of more than one billion litres of water annually for our State," Minister Maywald said.

"Something as simple and cost-effective as changing an old showerhead for a new efficient model has delivered massive water savings for our State.

"We trialled the program a year ago with 4000 old showerheads exchanged for the new low-flow 3-star WELS-rated water efficient showerheads.

"Now the South Australian community has come on board to support the WaterWise Communities' *Swap and Save* initiative as it has been rolled out across the State.

"To date 24,000 showerheads have been swapped and we are still counting as the 2009 program draws to a close later this month.

"The exchanged low-flow showerheads are designed to save up to 11 litres of water a minute compared to some of the older less water efficient models.

"What this means for people is that they save water and spend less money on water and energy bills by using less hot water.

"South Australian's have embraced the household water efficiency programs being run by SA Water, with 125,000 rebates, totalling more than \$24.3 million, granted under the H2OME Rebate Scheme since November 2007."

LGA SA President Felicity-ann Lewis said the program's success is due to the collaboration between SA Water and Councils under the Waterwise Communities Program and also community recognition that water is a precious commodity.

“Since it was launched in early 2008 Waterwise Communities has provided the platform for the successful Swap and Save program,” Mayor Lewis said.

Mayor Lewis said SA Water and the Councils who worked behind the scenes should be commended for pulling the program together and for encouraging people to visit their Council to pick up their new, free showerhead.

“Already, 48 councils across South Australia have taken part in the program, from as far away as Cleve and Port Lincoln on Eyre Peninsula, to regional centres in the South East such as Mount Gambier and Pinnaroo,” she says.

“It’s great to see that people across the State have supported this program through their Councils.”