

Saturday, 2 January 2010

WATER CONSUMPTION REMAINS BELOW TARGET

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald today congratulated the exceptional water conservation efforts of the community for helping Adelaide keep water consumption in 2009 below the target for enhanced level three water restrictions.

“South Australians have again demonstrated a willingness to continue to save water throughout the year and I congratulate our community on their efforts,” Minister Maywald says.

“In 2009, Adelaide consumed about 137.3 billion litres of water which is 57 billion less than during the severe drought year of 2002 – almost a 30 per cent reduction.

“I urge everyone to continue to value every drop and adhere to the current enhanced level 3 water restrictions. Although we had some good rainfall in Spring, we are still under drought conditions and this latest burst of heat is a reminder that we need to remain vigilant when it comes to water use.”

Minister Maywald says Adelaide is also tracking about 23 billion litres below the level 3 water restrictions target, due to our conservation efforts and welcome rainfalls in Spring.

“During spring about 50 billion litres of water from the rainfall entered our reservoirs, meaning Adelaide’s drinking water supply is relying more on water from rainfall than water pumped from the River Murray,” she says.

“From 1 January, 2009 to 31 December, 2009 about 125 billion litres of water from rainfall entered Adelaide’s reservoirs.

“On top of this, about 36 billion litres was pumped from the River Murray in the same period to help supplement supply and almost all of this pumping occurred in the first half of 2009.

“In 2008, only about 46 billion litres entered our reservoirs from rainfall and about 97 billion litres was pumped from the River Murray as part of SA Water’s licence.

“Currently Adelaide’s reservoirs are at 79% capacity compared to 75% at the end of 2008.

“The Government will continue to monitor consumption and review the level of restrictions on a monthly basis.”

Adelaide’s yearly consumption comparisons in megalitres (ML):

Total consumption – 2009: 137,351 ML

Total consumption – 2008: 136,904 ML

Total consumption – 2007: 139,897 ML

Total consumption – 2002 (severe drought year): 194,666 ML

