

Sunday, 29 August 2010

WATER RESTRICTIONS TO BE LIFTED ON DECEMBER 1

Minister for Water Paul Caica today said South Australia's current Level 3 enhanced water restrictions will end at the start of summer and permanent water conservation measures will be maintained following good inflows into Adelaide Hills storages.

Mr Caica said from December 1 the State will move to updated permanent water conservation measures which will provide mains water users with greater flexibility.

"The State Government has always said that when South Australia has enough water in storage the current water restrictions would be lifted," he said.

"With reservoirs in the Adelaide Hills now at over 80 per cent and the water for crucial human needs for the next two financial years almost secured, we are now in a position to lift restrictions.

"In recent months SA Water has been closely monitoring our storages to determine if we can move to updated permanent water conservation measures without risking the State's water security.

"SA Water has been preparing a discussion paper which will provide me with a range of options as to how we best implement the new conservation measures.

"I will be working closely with SA Water over the coming weeks to determine which measures will be adopted."

Mr Caica said despite the delay in the construction of the desalination plant as announced yesterday, there is enough water in the system for the State Government to lift the restrictions.

"Most of our water for the 2010-11 water year will be sourced from our reservoirs which have just received a fantastic deluge of natural inflows from the recent rains and this year we will head into summer with reservoirs close to capacity," he said.

Level 3 Enhanced Water Restrictions were introduced for the majority of SA Water customers in January 2007 and have been adjusted in recent years as water security improved and consumption decreased.

"Since these restrictions were introduced South Australians have continually showed their ability and willingness to help use water wisely and I'm confident this will continue," Mr Caica said.

"Everyone realises the importance of using water wisely and I am sure South Australians will embrace the new water conservation measures."

Mr Caica said the State Government would give the community ample information leading up to the changes.

Water restrictions for Eyre Peninsula, which moved to Level 3 enhanced restrictions in July 2009 due to a decline in groundwater allocations, will be reviewed in the coming months.

