

Monday, January 8th 2007

WATER RESTRICTIONS – ADVICE FOR ELDERLY

Acting Minister for Government Enterprises Michael Atkinson today advised seniors in the community to seek help from SA Water if they were having genuine difficulty adhering to the watering times permitted under Level 3 restrictions.

Mr Atkinson says some people may be entitled to exemption from the restrictions on health and safety grounds.

“I know many of our seniors are justly proud of their carefully tended gardens and the level three restrictions could cause some genuine hardship, particularly if they are in poor health, frail or disabled,” Mr Atkinson says.

Level 3 restrictions allow watering with hand held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle or a drip water system on any day but only before 8am and after 8pm. Sprinkler systems can be used on one day a week for three hours in the morning and/or three hours in the evening for the following:

- Even numbered properties on Saturday between 5am - 8am and 8pm - 11pm
- Odd numbered properties on Sunday between 5am - 8am and 8pm - 11pm

“I recognise that this may prove difficult for some older people and their health and safety will always be considered a priority in approving a permit,” Mr Atkinson says.

“I want to assure people that SA Water will never issue a fine as a first response to a breach of restrictions. If they come across somebody watering outside the specified hours they will try to understand the situation and help that person seek an exemption from the restrictions if appropriate.

“We know many of our older residents have endured drought before and know how to do their bit to save water.

“We will not penalise them just because they are unable to water within the permitted hours.”

Mr Atkinson advised anyone wishing to apply for an exemption to seek advice from the SA Water hotline on 1800 130 952.