

Tuesday, 10 April 2007

STATE GOVERNMENT WIDENS RAINWATER TANK REBATE SCHEME

The State Government has widened its rebate scheme to encourage more homeowners to install and plumb rainwater tanks in their homes.

Premier Mike Rann says Cabinet today approved the changes, which enables householders to claim a range of rebates from \$200 up to \$800 - effectively doubling the original maximum amount of \$400.

“The \$2 million rebate scheme was introduced in July last year, but unfortunately it has not been benefiting as many people as we would like.

“In early January this year, then Acting Premier Kevin Foley ordered a comprehensive review of the scheme.

“The changes approved today follow changes recommended by SA Water and the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

“We believe these changes better suit the needs of those who want to install rainwater tanks and plumb them into high water use areas of their homes, such as toilets, laundries and hot water services.

The new scheme offers rebates of:

- **up to \$800 to purchase a new rainwater tank and plumb it into an existing home**
- **up to \$600 to plumb a rainwater tank into an existing home,**
- **up to \$200 for a new rainwater tank of 1,000 litres or more plumbed in the home. This rebate applies to people wishing to add an additional or replacement tank to their existing plumbed system**

“The initial scheme offered a \$400 rebate for people towards the cost of plumbing a new or existing rainwater tank into their homes.

“A review of the 373 applications received by SA Water up until April 5 this year indicated that only 147 had been approved with a further 26 awaiting inspection.

“However, 200 applications were rejected for a variety of reasons, but more than half (117) were not accepted due to incorrect or inadequate documentation being provided by homeowners,” Mr Rann said.

Environment and Conservation Minister Gail Gago says its essential that people applying for a rebate provide proof of purchase and installation by producing an itemised plumbing invoice detailing all plumbing work, including parts and labour.

“The revised scheme will be backdated to July 1 last year, so those homeowners who’ve already benefited will now be eligible for the increased rebate.

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“In October last year, the scheme was modified to remove a requirement for automatic switching between rainwater and mains water.

“A manual switching device is sufficient for people to qualify for the rebate provided they have proof of installation by a registered plumber,” Minister Gago said.