
Friday 17 November 2006

WATER RESTRICTIONS ARE WORKING – CONSUMPTION IS DOWN

Acting Minister in charge of SA Water John Hill says he is heartened that in the past year, annual water consumption has **fallen by more than 15,000 megalitres** in the Adelaide metropolitan area.

“The stories of people using much more water than they did before restrictions were introduced are misleading,” he said.

“The Government’s permanent water conservation measures introduced in 2003 have in fact had a dramatic impact.

“While SA Water is supplying nearly 40,000 more people in Adelaide with mains water than it was five years ago, daily average water consumption has actually fallen from 450 litres per person (in 2001/02) to 387 litres per person (in 2005/06).

“The volume of water delivered to metropolitan Adelaide over the past five years has fallen quite spectacularly.

“In the first year that permanent water restrictions were introduced annual consumption fell from **178,300 megalitres** in 2002/03 to **165,500 megalitres** in 03/04. In 2005/06, the annual consumption fell further to **150,500 megalitres**.

“People are getting the message that they need to conserve water – and I am very grateful that they are heeding the message.

“If consumption appears to have gone up in the past few weeks, it must be remembered that it follows an unusual season of practically no rain, and a winter of low temperatures and therefore low evaporation.

“Water consumption always goes up at the first sign of warm weather.

“It is important to remember that this year water usage hasn’t risen in the months immediately following winter as much as it has in previous years.

“I believe stories that people are watering their gardens more than they would normally since tougher water restrictions were introduced are a nonsense.

“However, that doesn’t mean we should now all relax. The reality is that we are suffering through one of the worst droughts on record and there is no sign of significant rain forecast to ease the problems.

“It may well mean that tougher restrictions will still, nonetheless, have to be introduced.

“But it should be publicly acknowledged that the people of South Australia have been doing the right thing and conserving their water useage and they do not deserve to be berated by the State Opposition for not getting the message,” Mr Hill said.

For further information contact Catherine Hockley on 8463 3463 or 0422 004 434