News Release

www.ministers.sa.gov.au

Government of South Australia

Hon Karlene Maywald
Minister for the River Murray
Minister for Water Security

Thursday, May 14, 2009

EYRE PENINSULA RESTRICTIONS REVIEW

Eyre Peninsula water restrictions will be increased to Level 3 enhanced in response to a further deterioration in groundwater recharge in the region's aquifers.

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says the volume of water that can be extracted from the Southern Basins and Musgrave prescribed wells has been reduced following assessments by the Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

"The reduction in allocation is recognition that groundwater levels in the basins across Eyre Peninsula are declining as a result of recent changes in climatic conditions, particularly the severe drought that has affected much of the region," Minister Maywald said.

"While EP had been on its own set of restrictions since December 2002, the region will now come in to line with the vast majority of the State when higher restrictions take effect from July 1 this year.

"In the meantime, the Government continues to fast-track investigations into desalination for Eyre Peninsula, as outlined in the region's long-term water plan.

"SA Water is investigating a number of EP locations that may be suitable for a desalination plant including an upper north west coast location near Ceduna, mid west coast near Elliston, lower west coast near Cathedral Rocks, a southern coast option and an east coast location south of Tumby Bay.

"Investigations over coming months will identify a preferred location that addresses key environmental criteria and benefits the whole EP. Key stakeholders will be consulted in determining a preferred location."

Under Level 3 Enhanced water restrictions:

- Dripper systems and hand-held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle can be used for a maximum of three hours which can be spread over the following times:
    - **Even numbered houses:** Tuesday and Saturday, 7am to 10am or 4pm to 7pm.
    - **Odd numbered houses:** Wednesday and Sunday, 7am to 10am or 4pm to 7pm.
- Watering cans and buckets can be used on any day/time
- Sprinklers and other watering systems are not allowed.

Elderly, frail and disabled people can apply for permits to water under modified restrictions, and should phone the SA Water Restrictions Hotline on 1800 130 952 for more information.

Elliston is supplied by a separate resource in the Bramfield Basin and is exempt from the change in water restrictions, remaining on Permanent Water Conservation Measures.

The State Government reviews water restrictions in all areas of the State on a monthly basis and will do so for Eyre Peninsula by monitoring water consumption levels, weather patterns and groundwater levels.

SA Water Chief Operating Officer John Ringham said as well as demand management and desalination, SA Water has additional capacity in the Iron Knob to Kimba pipeline which could be used to supplement supplies in the short term if necessary.

"With the reduction in groundwater allocations, we are looking at other possible options for supply to the Eyre region," Mr Ringham said.

"In 2007 we completed the extension of the Morgan to Whyalla Pipeline to Kimba, and while it is currently delivering River Murray water to some customers on Eyre, it is not yet operating at its full capacity, so increasing its use is another option available to us if necessary."

Other projects being undertaken by SA Water on Eyre Peninsula are:

- **$3 million east coast main upgrade:** This includes a major upgrade to the water supply system which runs from Port Lincoln to Arno Bay. Once completed it will increase SA Water's capability to back-feed supplies to its customers during emergency water outages.

- **Calgon trial:** A pilot trial will be undertaken involving the dosing of Calgon to improve the issue of water hardness in some areas on Eyre. SA Water is currently assessing options for this project and will advise the community of the pilot trial details in the coming months.

- **Vapour Rooting:** A $50,000 vapour rooting program will begin this month in Port Lincoln to help prevent chokes and blockages in the local sewerage system. This project includes cleaning local sewerage mains and applying a tree-root inhibitor near our infrastructure. This follows a similar program completed last year and will take place in priority areas where chokes and blockages have occurred recently.

More detailed information on Level 3 Enhanced Water Restrictions

Sports Grounds and Recreation Facilities

- Hand-held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle may be used on any day but only before 8am or after 8pm.
- Watering cans and buckets may be used at any time.
- Sprinkler systems may be used once a week between the hours of 8pm and 8am.
- The day of the week and time of operation for each of the sprinkler stations is to be determined in conjunction with SA Water and subject to a permit.
- Testing of sprinklers will not be permitted without prior approval of SA Water.

Hard Surfaces

- Water must not be used to wash paved or concreted areas, decking, walls or roofs of a building at any time unless it is necessary to do so to protect public health, ensure safety of people using the area, ensure the health and welfare of animals using the area or in case of accident, fire or other emergency.
- Windows may be cleaned from a bucket filled directly from a tap.

Fountains, Ponds and Water Features

- A fountain, pond or water feature that does not recycle water must not be operated and must not be topped up unless it supports fish.
- The level of water in a fountain, pond or water feature that recycles water may be topped up only with water from a hand held hose or bucket.
- Fountains, ponds and water features must not be refilled after emptying.

Swimming Pools and Spas

- Existing pools and spas must not be refilled from empty.
- The level of water in a swimming pool or spa that has been previously filled with water may be topped up or maintained only with water from a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or bucket.
- New pools or spas may be filled only under the authority of a permit from SA Water. A permit will not be granted unless there is proof a cover has been purchased to prevent water loss through evaporation.
- Children's wading pools must not be filled with more than 250 litres of water.

Washing Cars and Boats

- Water must not be used to wash a vehicle except by means of a commercial car wash or a bucket filled directly from a tap.
- Hoses are not to be used.
- Boat owners are permitted to flush out motors and rinse off metal parts to prevent corrosion.

Farms or Rural Properties Using SA Water Supplies

- A farm dam or tank must not be filled with water unless it is being used for domestic or stock consumption or fire fighting. A permit is required to fill a dam or tank for any other reason.
- If a rainwater tank has been plumbed directly into a house by a licensed plumbing contractor it is acceptable to have a quantity of mains water in the tank.

Building/Construction Activities
Water must not be used for dust suppression and compaction unless it is applied from a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or directly from a motor vehicle designed and approved to carry/deposit water.

Commercial Nurseries and Garden Centres

- Hand held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle, watering cans, buckets and drip-watering systems may be used at any time to water plants in commercial nurseries and garden centres.
- Sprinkler systems may be used between the hours of 8pm and 8am.
- On days when the maximum temperature is forecast to exceed 30 degrees sprinkler systems may also be used between the hours of 1pm and 2pm.

Caravan and Camping Sites
Permits are required to water outside the garden and lawn guidelines. Permits allow watering under the following conditions:

- **October – March:** Grassed sites that have been damaged by cars, caravans and/or tents may be watered with a sprinkler for not more than 30 minutes on the day the area is vacated. If grassed areas are not being used then they may be watered with a sprinkler no more than once per week, for no more than 30 minutes at any time.
- **April – September:** Grassed sites that have been damaged by cars, caravans and tents with a sprinkler no more than once per week at any time for no more than 30 minutes at any time.