

News Release

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Hon Paul Caica
Minister for Environment &
Conservation
Minister for the River Murray
Minister for Water

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GARDEN GOODS REBATE DOUBLED TO ENCOURAGE WATER EFFICIENCY

The maximum rebate on water efficient garden products has been doubled to \$200 as part of changes to the State Government's H₂OME Rebate scheme.

Minister for Water Paul Caica said from December 1 the rebate on garden goods will be increased to allow gardeners who spend a minimum of \$100 on eligible water efficient garden products, to claim 50 per cent of the cost, up to \$200 as a rebate.

“With our new Water Wise Measures starting in December, the doubling of the garden goods rebate is a timely incentive to purchase water efficient gardening products, just in time for summer,” he said.

“Sprinkler technology has improved in the three years since we were last able to use them and new Smart Approved WaterMark sprinklers will be included in the rebate. Currently these products are mainly rotary and pop up sprinklers and have been chosen because of their pressure regulation, uniform application and low precipitation rate.

“We encourage manufacturers to seek Smart Approved WaterMark approval for their products as all products that receive Smart Approved WaterMark status, will become eligible items and attract the rebate making them more attractive to customers.”

“SA Water will also approach manufacturers to encourage them to develop water efficient portable sprinklers as well as working with the water industry peak body, the Water Services Association of Australia, to address this matter.

“Gardening experts say Smart Approved WaterMark sprinklers use up to 30 per cent less water than traditional sprinklers.”

Mr Caica said the \$200 rebate on washing machines with a minimum WELS rating of 4.5 stars will end on December 1 and washing machines purchased after November 30 will not qualify for the rebate.

“The washing machine rebate, which has been available for more than three years, has helped to increase the awareness of Water Efficiency Labelling Standards and encouraged manufacturers and retailers to offer more water efficient machines,” he said.

“There are still incentives to help reduce water use inside the home with a new residential retrofit program added to the scheme.

“Under the retrofit program, licensed plumbers will, at the request of a homeowner, check plumbing fixtures and fittings, install water saving devices and provide water saving advice for only \$30.

“Some of the products offered under the program include two water efficient showerheads, aerators or flow restrictors and minor repairs can be made to leaking taps.

“This program is in addition to the existing home water audit where homeowners can use their own licensed plumber to undertake the audit.”

H₂OME Rebates available from 1 December 2010 include:

- **Garden goods** – 50 per cent of the cost, up to \$200 for the purchase of eligible water efficient garden goods, including Smart Approved WaterMark sprinklers, when you spend over \$100.
- **Showerheads** – up to \$30 to purchase and install a low-flow (WELS 3 stars or more) showerhead
- **Dual flush toilets** - \$150 for retrofitting a dual flush toilet suite with a WELS rating of 3 stars or better
- **Home Water Audit** - \$100 (\$110 for regional areas) for a Home Water Audit plus up to 2 free low-flow showerheads
- **Rainwater tanks** - Between \$200 and \$1000 towards the purchase and retrofit of a rainwater tank into your home for uses such as toilet flushing, clothes washing or for hot water supply or up to \$200 for a stand alone rainwater tank (not required to be connected to the house)
- **Hot water re-circulator** - \$150 rebate for purchase and connection to an entire heated water system
- **Pool cover and cover rollers** – up to \$200 for the purchase of approved pool/spa covers and cover rollers
- **Residential retrofit program** - \$30 charge to customers (free to concession card holders) to check plumbing fixtures and fittings, install water saving devices and provide water saving advice

The H₂OME Rebate scheme began in November 2007 to encourage South Australians to achieve greater water savings inside and outside the home.

“Since then more than 187,000 rebates, worth over \$36 million have been granted on water-saving devices,” Mr Caica said.

Mr Caica also reminded residents the new Water Wise Measures come into place on December 1.

“From December householders can use a hand held hose with an approved nozzle or drip irrigation system at any time and sprinklers can be used after 5pm and before 10am on any day,” he said.

“The lifting of water restrictions means there’s a greater responsibility on water users to continue to use their water efficiently and I’m confident our community will do this.”

For more information on the updated and existing H₂OME Rebates, Water Wise Measures or Level 3 Enhanced Water Restrictions on Eyre Peninsula call the Water Wise Hotline on **1800 130 952** or visit www.sawater.com.au and to register for the H₂OME Retrofit call **1300 327 577**.