

News Release

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Premier Mike Rann

Minister for Economic Development
Minister for Social Inclusion
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ADELAIDE'S 2010 WATER CONSUMPTION THE LOWEST THIS DECADE

Premier Mike Rann has praised South Australians for their ongoing willingness to use water wisely with consumption during 2010 the lowest this decade.

Adelaide's 2010 water consumption dropped by 12,800 megalitres in the past year and is more than 70,000 ML a year lower - the equivalent of 28,000 Olympic sized swimming pools – than water usage in the severe drought year in 2002.

“Ongoing conditions have meant the community has had to find ways to do more with less water and I am confident all South Australians are now committed to valuing every drop they use,” Mr Rann said.

“The community has done a fantastic job saving water and I would like to congratulate everyone on their exceptional efforts.”

Mr Rann said South Australians have entered 2011 in a much better position with good natural inflows into our reservoirs, improved flows down the River Murray and the added security of the Adelaide Desalination plant which is expected to come on line in the middle of this year.

“Although last year was a good year in terms of high rainfall, we must not forget that it was only four years ago that Adelaide was facing a tough water situation due to prolonged drought conditions,” he said.

“And that is why the State Government commissioned the Adelaide Desalination Plant to provide an important insurance policy to ensure our future water security, regardless of climatic conditions.”

Mr Rann said the above-average rainfall in South Australia has helped to contribute to our water savings which has meant less water has been pumped from the River Murray into storages.

“The amount of water required from the River Murray varies from about 40 per cent of Adelaide's water needs in a normal rainfall year to as much as 90 per cent in a dry year,” he said.

“Over the past two years SA Water has halved the amount of water pumped from the River Murray into our reservoirs when compared to the drought year of 2006. During 2010 more than 123,000 ML of water from rainfall was captured, which is in addition to the 125,000 ML captured in 2009.

“Our total reservoir storage level is about 86 per cent compared to 79 per cent at the end of 2009.”

Mr Rann encouraged the community to continue to be water wise with their usage throughout 2011.

Adelaide's yearly consumption comparisons in megalitres (ML):

Total consumption – 2010: 124,551 ML
Total consumption – 2009: 137,351 ML
Total consumption – 2008: 136,904 ML
Total consumption – 2007: 139,897 ML
Total consumption – 2006: 169,074 ML
Total consumption – 2005: 164,617 ML
Total consumption – 2004: 168,663 ML
Total consumption – 2003: 169,848 ML
Total consumption – 2002: 194,666 ML
Total consumption – 2001: 176,006 ML
Total consumption – 2000: 186,972 ML