

6 February 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW GUIDE TO HELP TREES SURVIVE

SA Water has released a guide to provide the public with information on how to help their trees survive during the warmer months.

SA Water Chief Executive Anne Howe says the guide, titled the *Tree Survival Watering Guide - Helping your tree survive the drought*, contains advice and useful tips on tree survival, including when and where to apply water and ongoing care during the drought.

“The prolonged extreme drought has had an effect on a lot of trees around the State and there is less water available to help them survive,” Ms Howe says.

“Trees play an important role in our landscape and we hope that by following the waterwise tips in this new guide we can help keep them alive, even during extremely hot weather conditions.”

Some of the key tips featured in the guide include:

- The best way and time to water your trees
- How to identify if a tree is under stress
- Conserving water by using mulch

“Under current enhanced level 3 water restrictions you are allowed to water your garden with a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger-nozzle for a maximum of 3 hours per week across two days, or you can use a bucket or watering can filled with water directly from a tap,” Ms Howe says.

“SA Water customers in who do not receive water from the River Murray should check the level of water restrictions or permanent water conservation measures relevant to their area and find out when watering is allowed.”

Ms Howe says it’s important to consider factors such as the age of the tree, soil conditions and its location to help determine the best way to water it.

“There are plenty of useful tips in this guide, but for those keen gardeners who require more information and advice, I would recommend to speak with your local nursery or gardening expert.”

To access the guide visit <http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/WhatsNew/Publications/> and click on the Tree Survival Watering Guide link or call the SA Water Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 950 for a copy.