

Monday, 6 October 2008

SA GOVERNMENT GRANTS \$9M IN H2OME REBATES

Acting Minister for Water Security Paul Holloway said today the State Government has granted more than \$9 million from its H2OME Rebate Scheme since November last year, contributing to significant state-wide water savings.

Mr Holloway says Adelaide's water consumption so far this year has been 28% lower than during the same period of the peak drought year of 2002.

"This is a great saving and demonstrates the South Australian community's willingness to be water wise during this extreme drought," he says.

South Australians are estimated to have already saved about 800 million litres of water around the home due to the rebate scheme's success in encouraging the uptake of water efficient products.

Water-efficient washing machines make up the bulk of the rebates with more than 32,000 granted to the South Australian public, at a value of more than \$6 million, Mr Holloway says

Rebates for water-saving garden products, showerheads, dual-flush toilets and rainwater tanks have also been popular, he says.

"Sometimes small things can make all the difference, and that has definitely been the case in terms of the H2OME Rebate Scheme," Mr Holloway says.

"The simple act of replacing one showerhead can make a huge difference and can save the average household about \$30 a year on water and energy costs."

Mr Holloway says SA Water is also working with the Plumbing Industry Association to revise the Home Water Audits scheme to improve the uptake of that service.

A breakdown of the H2OME rebates already granted is set out below:

H2OME rebates - Since 1 November 2007:		
	<i>Number granted</i>	<i>Approx value</i>
Garden goods	5395	\$269,730
Showerheads	3547	\$99,624
Washing machines	32,087	\$6,416,790
Dual-flush toilets	2979	\$446,837
Rainwater tanks	2747	\$1,822,877
Home water audits	35	\$3,469
TOTAL	46,790	\$9,059,328