



Government
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Minister Karlene Maywald

Minister for the River Murray
Minister for Water Security

Mayor Kym McHugh

Acting President
Local Government Association
Of South Australia

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LOCAL COUNCILS SLASH DRINKING WATER USE

Minister for Water Security Minister Karlene Maywald today congratulated Adelaide metropolitan councils for reducing their potable water consumption by 37 per cent during the past financial year.

Minister Maywald says 16 councils across Adelaide have made a combined potable water reduction of almost 2.3 billion litres, helping to further reduce the pressure on the State's mains water supply.

These savings can be largely attributed to the Irrigated Public Open Space, or IPOS, Code of Practice, which provides guidelines for best practice turf and irrigation management for all public open spaces, she says.

“The reduction in the consumption of potable water is a great result and has helped councils achieve the IPOS annual water-saving target of between 30% and 40%,” Minister Maywald says.

“The savings also put us on track to achieve one of the key targets of the Water Proofing Adelaide strategy – to reduce water use.”

Minister Maywald says the biggest savings in water use were realised last summer with the need for increased conservation coinciding with the lower level of water availability.

“In the 2006-07 financial year councils used about 6100 megalitres of potable water, however last year this figure dropped significantly to about 3800 ML,” she says.

Minister Maywald says local councils have stopped irrigating some of their lower value open space assets to deliver the level of required savings.

“By adopting IPOS principles councils have saved water and money, while making better use of their available water to help reduce potential public health and safety issues particularly for sports grounds as they become harder due to the drought and water restrictions.”

Minister Maywald says the ability of individual councils to save water is influenced by the number and type of open space assets they manage and their access to alternate water supplies.

Local Government Association Acting President Mayor Kym McHugh said local councils had been working hard to improve water efficiency.

“Last year’s savings are a credit to the hard work councils put in to manage this precious resource during the prolonged drought,” Mayor McHugh said.

“Each of the 16 councils has reduced their potable water use and they are continually finding new ways to save water.

“Over the years many councils have also tapped into the availability of alternate water sources – this has helped to reduce their consumption from the mains supply as well.

“During the past five years local councils have reduced the amount of potable water they use by more than 3 billion litres and I hope to see this improve even more in the future.”

The IPOS code of practice was launched in March this year. Recently the Code won a State Parks and Leisure Australia award, which recognised its approach to create more sustainable parks and open spaces. The code is now in the running for the national awards which will be presented at the PLA Conference in Melbourne in November.

Potable water reductions for metropolitan councils for 2007-08 are:

- Campbelltown City Council – 57%
- City of Unley – 34%
- City of Tea Tree Gully – 45%
- City of Salisbury – 45%
- City of Playford – 21%
- Onkaparinga City Council – 50%
- Mitcham Council – 49%
- Adelaide City Council – 20%
- City of Marion – 48%
- The City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters – 23%
- City of Port Adelaide Enfield – 37%
- City of Charles Sturt – 48%
- The City of Burnside – 25%
- City of Prospect – 36%
- City of Holdfast Bay – 30%
- City of West Torrens – 49%