

Friday, 8 October 2010

### **EYRE PENINSULA WATERING TIMES TO CHANGE FOR SUMMER**

Watering times under Level 3 Enhanced Water Restrictions on Eyre Peninsula will change from December.

Minister for Water Paul Caica said from December 1 gardeners across Eyre Peninsula can continue to water their gardens with a hand held hose or dripper system on any day for a maximum of 7 hours a week, but the watering times will change to 6-9am or 6-9pm.

“This change in time means residents are still able to water during daylight hours while avoiding the warmer parts of the day when the risk of water loss through evaporation is higher,” he said.

“I would also like to remind residents the Level 3 Enhanced Water Restrictions, which were introduced across Eyre Peninsula on July 1 in 2009 due to concerns regarding decreasing groundwater recharge to many of the region’s aquifers, will remain in place as an assessment of recent recharge to the region’s groundwater basins continues.

“Currently we are monitoring how winter and spring rainfall in 2010 has impacted on the recharge of these basins and when this information is available, the State Government will decide on the most appropriate measures to take.

“Because much of the Eyre Peninsula relies on groundwater for its supply, we’re not in a position to reduce the current level of restrictions at this stage.

“We will continue to monitor groundwater levels, water consumption and also weather patterns on an ongoing basis.”

Mr Caica said anyone caught breaching the water restrictions faces a \$315 fine.

“SA Water has dedicated water conservation officers working across Eyre Peninsula and it is their role to help educate the community and enforce the restrictions,” he said.

“I trust the community will continue to abide by the restrictions and make water wise choices around their homes to help protect this most precious resource.”

Elderly, frail and disabled people can apply for permits to water under modified restrictions and should phone the SA Water Restrictions Hotline on 1800 130 952 for more information.

For more information about which water restrictions in your area call the SA Water Restrictions Hotline on 1800 130 952 or visit [www.sawater.com.au](http://www.sawater.com.au)

## **MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON LEVEL 3 ENHANCED WATER RESTRICTIONS**

### **Washing Cars and Boats**

- Water must not be used to wash a vehicle except by means of a commercial car wash or a bucket filled directly from a tap
- Hoses are not to be used
- Boat owners are permitted to flush out motors and rinse off metal trailers to prevent corrosion using a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle
- Vehicles that have been driven on the beach may also be rinsed off underneath the vehicle and wheel arches to prevent corrosion using a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle

### **Hard Surfaces**

- Water must not be used to wash paved or concreted areas, decking, walls or roofs of a building at any time unless it is necessary to do so to protect public health, ensure safety of people using the area, ensure the health and welfare of animals using the area or in case of accident, fire or other emergency.
- Windows may be cleaned from a bucket filled directly from a tap.

### **Sports Grounds and Recreation Facilities**

- Hand-held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle may be used on any day but only before 8am or after 8pm.
- Watering cans and buckets may be used at any time.
- Sprinkler systems may be used once a week between the hours of 8pm and 8am.
- The day of the week and time of operation for each of the sprinkler stations is to be determined in conjunction with SA Water and subject to a permit.
- Testing of sprinklers will not be permitted without prior approval of SA Water.

### **Fountains, Ponds and Water Features**

- A fountain, pond or water feature that doesn't recycle water must not be operated and must not be topped up unless it supports fish
- The level of water in a fountain, pond or water feature that recycles water may be topped up only with water from a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or bucket
- Fountains, ponds and water features must not be refilled after emptying

### **Swimming Pools and Spas**

- New pools or spas may be filled only under the authority of a permit from SA Water. A permit will not be granted unless there is proof a cover has been purchased to prevent water loss through evaporation
- A permit is required to refill an existing pool or spa if it has been drained completely or more than half
- The level of water in a swimming pool or spa that has previously been filled may be topped up or maintained only with a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or bucket
- Children's wading pools must not be filled with more than 250 litres of water

## **Farms or Rural Properties Using SA Water Supplies**

- A farm dam or tank must not be filled with water unless it is being used for domestic or stock consumption or fire fighting. A permit is required to fill a dam or tank for any other reason.
- If a rainwater tank has been plumbed directly into a house by a licensed plumbing contractor it is acceptable to have a quantity of mains water in the tank.

## **Building and Construction Activities**

- Water must not be used for dust suppression and compaction unless it is applied from a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or directly from a motor vehicle designed and approved to carry/deposit water

## **Commercial Nurseries and Garden Centres**

- Hand-held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle, watering cans, buckets or drip-watering systems may be used at any time to water plants in commercial nurseries and garden centres
- Sprinkler systems may be used between the hours of 8pm and 8am
- On days when the maximum temperature is forecast to exceed 30 degrees, sprinkler systems may also be used between the hours of 1pm and 2pm

## **Caravan and Camping Sites**

- Common areas are to be watered no more than once per week between the hours of 8pm and 8am via sprinklers. The day of the week and time of operation for each of the sprinkler stations is to be determined in conjunction with SA Water and subject to a permit
- Hand held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle may be used on any day but only before 8am or after 8pm
- Watering cans and buckets (filled directly from a tap) can be used at any time
- **October to March** - grassed areas been damaged by cars, caravans and/or tents may be watered with a sprinkler no more than 30 minutes on the day the area is vacated. If the grassed areas are not being used then they may be watered with a sprinkler no more than once per week for no more than 30 minutes
- **April to September** - grassed areas damaged by cars, caravans and/or tents may be watered with a sprinkler no more than once per week at any time for 30 minutes. Undamaged areas may be watered no more than once per week at any time for half an hour.
- **Permanent residents** - must adhere to the Level Enhanced 3 Water Restrictions for domestic customers as outlined above.