
Thursday, 7 October 2010

NEW 'WATER WISE' MEASURES TO REPLACE RESTRICTIONS

Premier Mike Rann and Water Minister Paul Caica today announced details of the new relaxed “water wise” regime that will replace Level 3 water restrictions when they end on November 30.

The new water wise measures will remain in place in South Australia from December 1 in recognition of the fact that water will always be a valuable resource that should never be taken for granted or squandered.

“I’m delighted that our improved water situation means we’re in a position to be able to lift the tight restrictions and give the community more choices as to how they use their water,” Mr Rann said.

“This new system means there will no longer be set watering times for using a hand held hose or drip irrigation system and householders will again be able to use sprinklers to water their gardens.

“Gardeners will be able to use sprinklers after 5pm and before 10am on any day. However – this is not a licence to waste water.

“Given the way the vast majority of South Australians embraced the need for water restrictions and have done the right thing during this severe and sustained period of drought in Australia – I am confident gardeners will limit the use of sprinklers to only what is necessary to keep their gardens alive.

“SA Water will continue to monitor consumption levels and review the measures once they are in place on an ongoing basis.”

Water Minister Paul Caica said after reviewing SA Water’s discussion paper about ongoing water conservation measures and following advice from industry experts and customers, the State Government believes the new regime is appropriate for South Australia.

“We wanted to keep the measures as simple and easy to follow as possible,” he said.

“Since the introduction of Level 3 Enhanced Water Restrictions in January 2007, South Australians have continually demonstrated their ability to save water.

“While we are anticipating an increase in water use this summer, I am sure the community will continue to value every drop.

“SA Water will now begin a campaign to inform the community of the new measures.”

Mr Caica said the State Government is also developing a revised water saving rebate scheme that will include rebates for additional water efficient gardening devices.

Areas already subject to Permanent Water Conservation Measures including the State's South East and Kangaroo Island will also move to Water Wise Measures from December 1.

The new measures will also apply to SA Water customers in Whyalla and Port Pirie.

Eyre Peninsula customers will remain on Level 3 Enhanced Water Restrictions as monitoring of the region's groundwater basins continues.

WATER WISE MEASURES FROM DECEMBER 1, 2010

Domestic Gardens and Lawns

Watering is permitted at any time by hand (through a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, from a watering can or bucket) or through a drip feed irrigation system.

Sprinklers can be used on any day after 5pm and before 10am.

Washing Cars and Boats

Water can be used to wash motor vehicles or a boat provided the water is applied:

- From a bucket or watering can
- By a high pressure, low volume water cleaner; or
- From a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle
- At a commercial car wash

Driveways, Paths, Verandas and Entertaining Areas

The hosing down of external paved areas with water is permitted with a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle only:

- To protect public health
- To ensure the safety of people using the area
- To ensure the health and welfare of animals using the area
- To deal with fire, accident or other emergency

Swimming Pools and Spas

New pools and spas can be filled under a permit from SA Water. Before a permit is issued, SA Water requires proof of purchase of an approved pool cover.

Construction Sites

Water can be used for dust suppression and compaction when it is applied from:

- A hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle
- Directly from a motor vehicle designed and approved to carry/deposit water

Sports Grounds and Recreational Facilities

Sports grounds and recreational facilities can be watered under an Irrigation of Public Open Space (IPOS) permit as negotiated with SA Water.

For more information visit www.sawater.com.au or call SA Water on 1800 130 952.