



Government
of South Australia

News Release



Hon Karlene Maywald

Minister for the River Murray
Minister for Water Security

Mayor Joy Baluch

President
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WATER SAVING SHOWER TRIAL KEY TO NEW PARTNERSHIP

The State Government and the Local Government Association of South Australia have joined forces to reduce community water use through a new trial showerhead exchange program.

The free exchange program - where householders can trade in old showerheads in return for low-flow models - will be trialled in at least five Councils under the new Waterwise Communities program being led by SA Water and the LGA.

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says the Waterwise Communities program also includes targeted water saving plans, water education programs, community events and shower-timer giveaways.

“Our goal is to have all councils participating by the end of 2008 and to make it easy for people to trade old water wasting showerheads, to new low-flow versions,” Minister Maywald said.

“This program has the opportunity to not only save water, but also electricity, greenhouse gas emissions and money on water bills. It also extends on the success of our H₂OME Rebate Scheme which has already seen about \$3 million of waterwise rebates provided to the community.”

The water saving partnership between State and Local Government was sealed today when Minister Maywald, SA Water chief executive Anne Howe and LGA president Joy Baluch signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

Under the MoU, the partners will work together to promote and support water wise communities.

Ms Baluch says the program recognises the need to increase communication, education and incentives for communities and individuals to save water in the home.

“There are significant gains to be achieved by councils and the State Government working together to conserve South Australia’s dwindling water reserves,” Ms Baluch said.

“We are in the grips of the worst drought on record across the Murray Darling Basin and it is vital we engage our communities to adopt waterwise measures for sustainable water use practices in and around our homes. There are significant community benefits in SA Water and Local Government working together to promote wise water use.”

Ms Howe said the project would contribute to the Water Proofing Adelaide strategy target to save more than 11 billion litres of indoor household water per year by 2025.

“A low-flow showerhead can save 16,000 litres of water per household every year so this can add up to a significant saving if it is widely adopted,” Ms Howe said.

“South Australians are already becoming more waterwise and Adelaide alone has saved 19 billion litres of water so far this year compared to the 10-year average for the same period.”

Further information on how to be involved will be provided to communities once the trials are complete.

The MoU will be signed today at 9.45am at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Hall C