

Thursday, 12 October 2006

## **SA'S TOUGHEST WATER RESTRICTIONS TO HELP CONSERVE THE MURRAY**

Enhanced Level two water restrictions will start in most of South Australia from midnight Sunday night (October 22nd) to help conserve our nation's precious River Murray.

Premier Mike Rann says Cabinet approved specific details of the restrictions this morning.

The initiatives, which replace Permanent Water Conservation Measures, further restrict:

- **The watering of gardens and lawns with sprinklers to three days a week – but not between 8am and 8pm** (even number homes on Tues, Thurs & Sat /odd numbers Wed, Fri & Sun);
- **The use of sprinklers on sports grounds and recreational areas to two days a week;**
- **No emptying and refilling of existing pools and spas, while top ups can only be done by hand held hose or bucket;**
- **New pools or spas will need a cover to minimise evaporation** before they can be granted a special permit for filling;
- **Cars can only be washed using a commercial car wash or bucket filled directly from a tap.** Rinsing with a hand held hose requires a trigger nozzle;
- Further restrictions also apply to fountains and ponds, garden centres and caravan parks (*detailed over page*).

These restrictions do not prevent watering with hand held hoses with a trigger nozzle at any time. This will ensure that delicate plants can be preserved in hot weather.

**“These are the toughest restrictions we’ve ever had in South Australia after the driest winter and the lowest inflows into the River Murray on record,” Premier Mike Rann said.**

**“We’ve imposed the restrictions that were in place three years ago, but made them tougher - with no watering on Mondays, and tougher rules for pools.**

“As the River Murray continues to be affected by the worst drought we’ve ever seen, we’re asking all South Australians to help save water.

“Part of that means keeping Mondays for the Murray – with alternating days for the rest of the week – even numbered houses starting Tuesday, and odds on Wednesday.

“The River Murray provides about 40 per cent of Adelaide’s water needs but this can reach 90 per cent in drought years.

“It will take substantial rain to ease the pressure on our precious water resource.

“By sticking to Permanent Water Conservation Measures South Australians have already reduced water consumption by almost 17% since the first restrictions were introduced in 2003.”

“The Liberals wanted price hikes for water, but we have ruled that out – we want to conserve water, not rip people off,” Mr Rann said.

Acting Minister for Administrative Services and Government Enterprises John Hill says industry, business and householders are being asked to pitch in.

“We’re doubling SA Water’s number of dedicated Water Conservation Officers to 10, on top of 40 other officers, who are authorised to hand out fines for breaches of restrictions,” Minister Hill said.

“We’re also looking to the longer term by Waterproofing Adelaide through a \$240 million 20 year strategy.

“We want to build on South Australia’s national lead in the use of recycled water.”

Areas **not** included in the level two restrictions, as they do not receive River Murray water, include:

- North of Pt Augusta
- Murray Mallee (Geranium, Parilla, Lameroo, Pinaroo)
- Kangaroo Island
- Warooka, Orroroo, Hawker, Quorn, Parachilna, Wilmington, Melrose, Cockburn, Terowie, Yunta, Olary, Manna Hill.
- The South East districts south of Keith.

Eyre Peninsula remains on the restrictions implemented in December 2002.

**Further information about water restrictions and reducing consumption is available from the SA Water hotline on 1800 130 952 or [www.sawater.com.au](http://www.sawater.com.au).**

## ENHANCED LEVEL 2 RESTRICTIONS AT A GLANCE (enhanced measures in bold)

### GARDENS AND LAWNS

- Even numbered properties can use sprinklers only from midnight to 8am and 8pm to midnight on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- Odd numbered properties can use sprinklers only from midnight to 8am and 8pm to midnight on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.
- **No watering of gardens and lawns with sprinklers at any time on Mondays.**
- Hand-held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle, watering cans, buckets and drip-watering systems may be used at any time.
- No sprinklers to be used between 8am and 8pm on any day.

### SPORTS GROUNDS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

- Sprinkler systems may only be used twice a week between the hours of 8pm and 8am.
- Hand held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle, watering cans, buckets and drip watering systems may be used at any time to water sports grounds and recreational facilities.
- Testing of sprinklers during restricted times not be permitted without prior approval from SA Water.

### HARD SURFACES

- Water mustn't 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.

### FOUNTAINS AND PONDS

- A fountain or pond 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 or pond that recycles water may only be topped up with water from a hand held hose or bucket.
- Fountains and ponds must not be emptied and refilled.

### SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS

- Existing pools and spas must not be emptied nor refilled from empty.
- New pools or spas may only be filled under the authority of a permit from SA Water. **A permit will not be granted unless proof a cover has been purchased to prevent water loss through evaporation.**
- The level of water in a swimming pool or spa that has been previously filled with water may only be topped up or maintained with water from a hand held hose or bucket.
- **Children's wading pools must not be filled with more than 250 litres of water.**

### 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.
- A hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or a high pressure low volume water cleaners may be used to rinse a vehicle after washing it with water from a bucket.
- Boat owners are permitted to flush out motors and rinse off metal parts to prevent corrosion.

## **BUILDING DEVELOPMENT/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 and 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.

## **CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES**

- Please contact SA Water or visit the website for information.

### **Penalties**

People who fail to comply with restrictions will be issued with a notice reminding them of their responsibilities. If non-compliance continues, a \$315 expiation notice will be issued. Serious and ongoing breaches could result in court action and fines of up to \$5000 for individuals or \$10,000 for businesses.

### **Exemptions & Permits**

Exemptions and permits may be available under certain circumstances. Contact SA Water for details.

### **Looking to the Future**

The South Australian Government is continuing to implement the Water Proofing Adelaide strategies which are designed to reduce our reliance on mains water by 47,000 megalitres a year by 2025. When fully implemented, Water Proofing Adelaide will allow the State to grow and develop while providing us with a reliable water supply in drought years and as the impacts of climate change become more evident.