

Thursday, 23 August, 2007

### **DOMESTIC WATER RESTRICTIONS CONTINUE THROUGH SEPTEMBER**

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says restrictions on domestic outdoor watering will continue through September as drought continues across the Murray-Darling Basin.

“So far rainfall has been below average to average for most of South Australia so nature has not delivered us the wet winter we have all been hoping for,” Minister Maywald said.

“Inflows to the River Murray system are currently tracking at similar levels to the 2002-03 drought so we are a long way from recovering from the current dry conditions.

“Adelaide Hills’ reservoirs are currently at 78 percent but most of this water is Murray water. The back-up supply is Hume and Dartmouth dams which are at 22 percent and 16 percent respectively.

“Natural inflows to the Mount Lofty Ranges have only been 47 gigalitres from the beginning of April to now, compared with the five-year average of 58 gigalitres so inflows are below-average.

“The level of domestic restrictions for the rest of the year will depend on rainfall received in both of the catchments that supply Adelaide – the Mount Lofty Ranges and the Murray-Darling Basin.”

Minister Maywald urged all South Australians to remain vigilant in reducing water use and remember compliance officers would be monitoring water use throughout the city.

“Adelaide has used 88 billion litres so far this year, compared with 110 billion litres for the same period during the last drought in 2003 and this is a great effort,” Minister Maywald said.

“Gardeners should speak to their local nursery or garden centre for ideas on how to ensure gardens can be managed with minimum impact.”

The current rules for outdoor watering, which are to be continued in September, include:

- The use of household sprinklers, hoses and watering systems, including drippers and any watering of lawns is banned.
- Buckets and watering cans will be allowed for outdoor trees, shrubs and plants.
- The use of greywater, by buckets and hoses, can continue in line with the requirements of the Department of Health.
- All Level 3 restrictions relating to nurseries, car washing, pools, spas, fountains and ponds will remain unchanged. There are no restrictions on the use of water from rainwater tanks or bores.

People who are unable to carry buckets or watering cans due to age or disability can apply for a permit from SA Water to allow the use of a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle during certain hours.

For more information visit [www.sawater.com.au](http://www.sawater.com.au) or call the water restrictions hotline, 1800 130 952.