

Friday, January 2, 2009

SOUTH AUSTRALIANS CURB WATER USE DURING RECORD DROUGHT

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald has congratulated the Adelaide community for further reducing its water consumption during 2008 and is encouraging all residents to continue the water-saving trend during 2009.

“In 2008, Adelaide consumed about 137 billion litres of water which is a 30 percent reduction when compared to the severe drought year of 2002 – a saving of more than 57 billion litres,” she said.

“This saving is equivalent to Mount Bold and Happy Valley reservoirs both at full capacity and shows just how water efficient we have become during this time of severe prolonged drought.

“The saving comes on top of incredible water-saving efforts throughout 2007 and it is clear, as a community, we understand just how important it is to save every drop of water that we can. I thank everyone for their excellent water-saving efforts and encourage them to keep up the good work.

“Under enhanced level 3 water restrictions, South Australia has saved more than 64 billion litres which is a fantastic effort.

“Average daily consumption has also decreased from 533 megalitres per day in 2002 to 374 mgL/day in 2008.

“Throughout summer I urge everybody to make the most of every drop of water they use both inside and outside the home.

“Assisting with the water-saving efforts is the uptake of rebates on water-saving devices under the State Government’s H2OME Rebate Scheme.

“Since November 1, 2007, the Government has granted nearly 59,000 rebates at about \$11.4 million.

“With products purchased under the rebates scheme – including water efficient washing machines, garden goods and showerheads as well as dual-flush toilets, rainwater tanks and home water audits – an estimated 900 megalitres of water has been saved.

“Adelaide’s water use is continuing to track below the Government’s target for enhanced level 3 restrictions. The level of restrictions will continue to be reviewed on a monthly basis.”

Yearly consumption comparisons in megalitres:

Total consumption – 2008: 136,904 ML

Total consumption – 2007: 139,897 ML

Total consumption – 2006: 169,074 ML

Total consumption – 2002 (previous drought year): 194,666 ML