



# Amanda Rishworth MP's Green Hero News

January 2009

## Saving water around the home

### Level 3 Water Restrictions Current Watering Times

Dripper systems and hand-held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle can be used for a maximum of 3 hours a week during the following times:

- Even numbered houses Tuesday and Saturday 6-9am or 6-9pm
- Odd numbered houses Wednesday and Sunday 6-9am or 6-9pm

Watering cans and buckets can be used on any day/time. Watering times remain unchanged for people with a permit who are unable to adhere to restrictions due to age or disability.

A maximum watering period of 3 hours remains but householders will have more options regarding how they split those hours. SA Water will be carefully monitoring water use every week and keeping track of any trends in increased water use.

If you are having difficulty adhering to water restrictions due to age or disability download a permit application from SA Water

[http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/WaterRestrictionsConservationMeasures/Level3\\_main.htm](http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/WaterRestrictionsConservationMeasures/Level3_main.htm)

There are no restrictions on the use of water from rainwater tanks and the temporary bucketing and hosing of greywater will continue to be permitted in line with the requirements of the Department of Health.

### Saving Water - Hot water systems

- Choose the right size system for your needs—if your system is too large, you will waste money by heating more water than you need.
- Make sure the hot water system outlet pipe is well insulated and set the heater to 60°C.
- Turn off your hot water system when you go on holidays.
- Repair leaking hot water taps—a hot water tap dripping at the rate of 1 drip per second can waste up to \$25 worth of hot water in a year.
- Have a qualified person periodically check your water heater.

## **Saving water in your garden**

Plant local native trees and shrubs in your garden -They will be best suited to the local climate, provide habitat for native animals, attract birds, require less maintenance and use less water.

### **Lawns**

- Lawns drink lots of water. Minimize lawn area by creating mulched garden beds.
- Don't plant more lawn than you can handle with a hand mower.
- Plant the right grass for your region.
- Consider ground covers, paving, bark chips or pebbles as an alternative to lawn.
- Recycle all lawn clippings in the compost.

### **Mulching**

Start mulching and you may be able to give up weeding altogether. When weeding is necessary, compost the weeds unless they are really nasty ones like onion weed.

### **More tips for saving water**

- Plant native plants –they thrive in dry conditions.
- Reduce the area of water-thirsty lawn—and don't plant evergreen trees near lawns.
- Don't hose the path—sweep it instead.
- Install a rainwater tank for garden watering.
- Watering your garden and lawn less often but more thoroughly will encourage plants to extend their roots deeper into the soil making them more drought resistant.
- Use wetting soil agents to hold water in the soil longer and closer to the plants. Aerate soil with a garden fork to help water soak into the soil.
- More than 70% of water lost through evaporation could be saved with efficient mulching. Mulch keeps the roots cool and discourages weeds.
- Water in the early morning or late evening to prevent evaporation.
- Remove weeds—they compete for water and nutrients.
- Keep plant families together. Plants that need lots of water should be together, and separate from those that will survive on little—it saves wasting water on plants that don't need it.
- Install a drip watering system with a timer—to direct the water where the plants need it, at their roots. These systems are cheap and easy to install.
- Use a trigger hose – this way you won't waste water as you move about the garden.
- Cover the pool to reduce evaporation.
- Wash the car on the lawn—this way you are using the water twice

## **Funding Programs to help you save water around the home**

### **Grant: H2ome Rebate**

Provider: SA Water

Category: Environment Conservation & Heritage

Funding: Various

Closes: Ongoing

Purpose: To encourage South Australian households to achieve greater water savings inside and outside the home.

Overview: Rebates are available for approved water efficient products purchased on or after 1 November 2007.

Home Water Audits are available from 1 January 2008. The Home Rebate scheme has now been extended to include not-for-profit and charitable organisations for eligible indoor goods (showerheads, washing machines, dual flush toilets).

The rebates available are:

- Up to \$30 for a low-flow (3 stars or more) showerhead
- \$150 for retrofitting a dual flush toilet suite
- \$200 for the purchase of a new water efficient (4 stars or more) washing machine
- \$50 rebate when you spend \$150 or more on specified water efficient garden goods.
- \$100 rebate for a Home Water Audit plus the installation of up to 2 free low flow showerheads
- Between \$200 and \$1000 towards the cost of purchasing and plumbing rainwater tank to retrofit into your home. You will need to supply your proof of purchase and installation (where appropriate). Rebates are not available on rented, leased or hired products.

Who can apply: Rebates are available to all residential properties regardless of whether the property is connected to SA Water mains supply, subject to specific eligibility criteria.

Rebates are available to both homeowners and tenants. Tenants will need to present a letter from the property owner to be eligible for the low-flow showerhead, dual flush toilets, rainwater tank plumbing rebates and the Home Water Audit rebate.

How to apply: Mail

Further Information

Website: [http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/YourHome/SaveWaterInYourHome/rebates\\_overview.htm](http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/YourHome/SaveWaterInYourHome/rebates_overview.htm)

Guidelines: <http://www.sawater.com.au/NR/rdonlyres/57223FE3-4152-4472-9250-CA3029C40C34/0/HomeRebateBookletNov07.pdf>

### **Rain Water Tank Rebate**

As part of the \$12.9 billion Water for the Future plan, the Government is delivering the \$250 million National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative to help people use water wisely in their everyday lives. The Australian Government is providing rebates of up to \$500 for households to install rainwater tanks or greywater systems. The \$250 million National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative is funded over six years from 2008-09 to 2013-14. Program guidelines are being developed.

Please subscribe to our online register at <http://hermes.erin.gov.au/eaccrf/nrgi/index.shtml> so that we can notify you of start dates and program details as soon as they become available. Rebates will be available for the installation of tanks and greywater systems from the commencement of the of the program. Tanks already installed prior to the program opening will not qualify for the rebate. For Further information call 1800 218 478.

## Other Funding programs for the Householder

### Solar Credits

The Government will continue to meet demand under the Solar Homes and Communities Plan, which will transition to the Solar Credits scheme in mid 2009. Solar Credits will replace the Solar Homes and Communities Plan as the Government's primary means of supporting the installation of solar power systems. The Government will work with industry to ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements.

#### Further Information

Website: <http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/solarhotwater/>

Contact Details: Australian Greenhouse Office

Telephone: 1800 808 571

### Green Loans

The Australian Government's Green Loans Program will assist Australian families to install solar, water saving, and energy efficient products.

The Green Loans Program will provide:

- detailed, quality household sustainability assessments
- green renovations packs
- access to low interest Green Loans of up to \$10,000 each.

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts is finalising the program guidelines which will set out eligibility criteria and administrative arrangements. The guidelines will be released early in 2009 with the first assessments and loans expected to be available in mid 2009.



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