

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

NEW GARDEN WATERING TIMES AS DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says watering times under Level 3 restrictions will change with the end of daylight saving on Sunday, March 25.

“The new times, approved yesterday by State Cabinet, will ensure SA Water customers are not outside watering in darkness as daylight hours decrease through winter,” she said.

“Water restrictions are aimed at conserving our precious resource during this severe drought and the new times will enable the community to reduce their water use, while not risking their own safety.”

The new hours include:

- Even-numbered houses can use sprinklers from 6am to 9am and 5pm to 8pm on Saturdays and odd-numbered houses for the same hours on Sundays. Sprinklers are still banned on weekdays.
- Hand-held hoses with a trigger nozzle and drippers can be used between 6am and 9am and from 5pm to midnight on any day.
- Watering cans and buckets may still be used at any time.

Minister Maywald said current water consumption was well below the 10-year average, despite South Australia recording one of its hottest months on record during February.

“In the past four years, South Australia’s population has increased by 38,000 people and in that time, our daily water consumption per person in the metropolitan area has fallen by 68 litres per person per day.

From January 1st to March 12th this year, metropolitan water consumers have used 37,009 megalitres. For the same period during the last drought in 2003, water use was 50,372 megalitres and in 2006, it was 46,711 megalitres.

“Overall, much less water is being used in the current drought year than in the last drought year in 2002-03,” she said.

“Average daily consumption per person has fallen from 455 litres per person in 2001-02 to 387 litres per person in 2005-06.

“This is a great achievement by water users in South Australia and I encourage all residents to continue to look at how they can further improve water efficiency inside and outside their homes.”

While an advertising campaign will be conducted to inform the community of new watering times, information is also available on www.sawater.com.au or via the Water Restrictions Hotline on 1800 130 952.