

Media Release



Friday, 6 November, 2009

October's rain and heat brings November deadline into focus

With temperatures set to soar into the 30s over the next week, Western Water Managing Director John Wilkinson is urging people to put into practice the right water-smart gardening for their summer environments.

"October was a wonderful month for gardeners, with good rains and warm breaks really consolidating the best spring we've had in years," Mr Wilkinson said.

"But with the Bureau predicting hotter than average temperatures in the lead up to Christmas, people really need to have prepared their gardens for the really hot months to come after the New Year."

Mr Wilkinson said last month's rainy start had been followed by an unusually warm patch, and as a result water consumption figures jumped above the Target 155 litres per person per day.

"When you consider watering the garden with a hand-held hose can use as much as 600 litres in just half an hour, this will blow out one day's consumption target for a small household, without even counting shower, toilet and kitchen water use," he said

"This next month, especially with such warm weather forecast for this coming week, is critical to our summer Target 155 Campaign.

"Now is the time when the work we have done since last summer to put better systems in place, to make sure we use every drop of water wisely, really come to the fore."

Mr Wilkinson said it is important people change into summer mode and go back to basics with their water consumption

"With householders using 85% of the water in Western Water's systems, it really does get back to the summertime basics — four-minute showers, reusing greywater on gardens, buckets and tanks," he said.

"We must go back to basics to stay on target."

Mr Wilkinson urged people to become involved in all facets of the Target 155 campaign, including the State Government's many water-smart rebate offers for tanks and greywater systems, as well as mulch and water-conserving crystals.

"There is plenty of help available for people to learn how to cut consumption and put sustainable systems in place for years to come," he said.

"And summer is a great time to test that all the systems you have already put in place are working to safeguard your home and garden against the summer heat."

About Western Water

Western Water is one of Victoria's 13 regional urban water corporations. We provide water, recycled water and sewerage services to over 53,000 properties and 134,810 people in an area of 3,000 square kilometres. Our region extends from Lancefield in the north to Melton and Rockbank in the south and from Myrning in the west to Bulla in the east. We incorporate parts of Hume City Council and Melton, Moorabool and Macedon Ranges Shire Councils.

Media contacts

Helen Grimaux | Media Advisor | 0419 356 361 | helen.grimaux@westernwater.com.au

Brigid Wenn | Manager Communications | 03 9218 5521 | 0419 314 700 | brigid.wenn@westernwater.com.au