

# Media Release



Wednesday, 30 September, 2009

## Great spring rains boost local storages

While the best spring rains in years have brought much-needed inflows to both Melbourne water storages and some local reservoirs, Western Water managing director John Wilkinson is warning Victoria's green veneer will brown off rapidly as summer sets in.

"Creeks and rivers in some places are brimming and the catchments are finally running resulting in a much-needed boost to local storages," Mr Wilkinson said.

He said good inflows to local reservoirs in the Macedon Ranges catchments meant Woodend residents now have local water on tap again, rather than being dependent on water from Melbourne storages.

"This saves on both the costs and energy of pumping water from the Melbourne system into ours and that's what we mean when we say we count on every drop!

"Woodend residents are due to be drinking all local water again over the next couple of weeks. Campaspe Reservoir is now close to full and Western Water is set to stop the transfer of Melbourne bulk water this week," he said.

"At Lancefield, Garden Hut Reservoir is also full and rainwater is now being transferred into the Lancefield storages, while at Romsey we have not needed to tap into Melbourne supplies since the end of June."

Mr Wilkinson said while all Western Water drinking supplies meet the same high quality standards, residents sometimes notice slight taste and odour differences after the changeover to different water sources.

Regional variations do occur, just as rainfall varies enormously across our region."

He said the effects of the rain shadow across the Werribee Plains were obvious, with the Melton and Moorabool areas receiving less rain and, consequently, less run-off into local water storages recently.

"Unfortunately, these rains did not bring the same benefits everywhere in the region," he said.

"The water level in one of the major storage system for our region, the Rosslynne Reservoir at Gisborne, has barely moved and it is still at less than five per cent capacity.

"In southern areas, there needs to be substantial flows through the Lerderderg and Werribee Rivers into Merrimu and Melton Reservoirs before Western Water's supply systems can be tapped into."

Mr Wilkinson said with such varied results around the region, no-one can afford to relax their guard against water waste.

"So far, Western Water customers have proved to be among the best in the state at cutting their consumption of this most precious of our resources," Mr Wilkinson said.

### 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 Myrniong 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](mailto:helen.grimaux@westernwater.com.au)

Brigid Wenn | Manager Communications | 03 9218 5521 | 0419 314 700 | [brigid.wenn@westernwater.com.au](mailto:brigid.wenn@westernwater.com.au)

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"I urge everyone to join the water conservation effort and make waterwise habits a permanent change," Mr Wilkinson said.

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## **Target 155 - Summer 2010 Campaign**

Under the Target 155 campaign to date, Melburnians have saved about 14 billion litres of water.

For water saving tips and up-to-date information, visit [www.target155.vic.gov.au](http://www.target155.vic.gov.au)

## **Under Stage 3a water restrictions:**

- Lawns must not be watered at any time
- Even and no-numbered properties can water plants on Saturday and Tuesday 6am - 8am
- Odd-numbered properties can water plants on Sunday and Wednesday 6am - 8am
- Residents aged 70+ can water plants on their designated days between 6am – 8am *or* at an alternate time of 8am – 10am
- Automatic dripper systems can be used to water plants on specified watering days between midnight – 2am
- Rainwater and grey water can be used at any time
- Cars can be washed at commercial car washes or at home using rain water
- No watering is permitted on Monday, Thursday and Friday

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