

Media Release



August 9 2010

Rainfall up but warning to be waterwise

Local water storages remain low and Western Water is still urging people to save water at home and at work, despite a boost to Melbourne water storages after a wet start to winter.

Western Water's two major reservoirs, Rosslynne, near Gisborne, and Merrimu, near Melton, are at 4.7% and 10% capacity respectively, up slightly on last year.

Continued low levels mean towns in the region will continue to be supplied with water from Melbourne.

Rising storages are the result of close to average rainfall in the first half of this year, in contrast to below-average rainfall over the past decade. Dry ground in the region has soaked up much of the rain, leaving little run-off.

"It's nice to see green grass and puddles around, but we mustn't let one wet winter distract us from long-term efforts to save water," Western Water's Managing Director, John Wilkinson, says.

"We still need to be installing water-saving devices around our homes, taking shorter showers and planting drought-resistant plants in our gardens – and don't forget Target 155.

Mr Wilkinson said State Government figures showed Western Water customers were among the lowest water users in Victoria.

"Our customers are committed to water conservation. Overall water usage in the Western Water region for 2009-10 was less than 10.6 million litres, the lowest ever recorded, despite our increasing population," he said.

"That equates to 149 litres per person per day."

Melbourne water storages are up to 36.5 per cent as of the first week of August, compared to around 27 per cent at the same time last year.

"This is important for us, as around 95 per cent of water supplies in Western Water's service area come from the Melbourne supply," Mr Wilkinson says.

In March water restrictions in Western Water's service area were eased from stage 3a to stage 3, allowing householders to water their gardens every second day at specified times.

"Western Water is still working hard on water conservation measures for our residential and business customers," Mr Wilkinson says.

"We are offering a free showerhead exchange, free trigger nozzles for hoses and subsidised installation of dual-flush toilets.

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

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"Under our WaterTight program, households can have a licensed plumber visit, identify water saving measures and carry out minor jobs such as replacing tap washers.

"We are also working closely with high water-use businesses to help them reduce their usage, and piping recycled water around the region for uses such as watering sports grounds."

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