

Media Release



Friday, 12 March, 2010

Western Water towns lead state in water efficiency

Western Water Managing Director John Wilkinson has heralded the results of the latest statewide town by town comparison of water consumption and praised regional customers for their great efforts during the longest drought on record.

“These latest figures released by the Premier show all towns in Western Water’s region lowered or held their consumption figures over 2009 compared to 2008, despite some of the worst heat wave events during 2009 this state has ever experienced,” Mr Wilkinson said.

“Results from the towns of the Gisborne - Macedon region show the diligence and commitment of people to work with their landscapes in some of the most precious forests and fire-prone districts in the state,” he said.

“And residents of Sunbury area, which includes Diggers Rest and Bulla townships, are stand-out winners in the water efficiency effort, falling below an already low average 148 litres per person per day in 2008 to a very sustainable 139 l/p/d last year.”

“But the greatest drop in consumption regionally has come from Romsey and Lancefield residents, who reduced their per head consumption between 2008 and 2009 by 15 litres per person per day, dropping well below the statewide Target 155 l/p/d.”

Mr Wilkinson said there are a number of reasons water consumption varies from town to town, including local climatic conditions that can vary greatly even across the Western Water region.

“For instance, the Melton Rockbank area is in a recognised rain shadow and big rain events in the Macedon Ranges often completely bypass the Melton area” he said.

Mr Wilkinson praised the State Government’s Target 155 water conservation campaign and rebate scheme for empowering and supporting people to make changes to their home and garden habits.

“Western Water has been very fortunate to be part of this campaign over the past two years and has also instigated a number of its own regional initiatives, such as our WaterTight program, which helps water users come to grips with their excess consumption and is available to any Western Water customer in the region,” he said.

Mr Wilkinson said Western Water also worked closely with commercial customers on practical water saving measures and had invested significantly through its capital works budget over recent years to ensure water mains networks are kept in optimum shape to avoid bursts and leaks.

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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.

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Western Water region's town statistics 2008 and 2009.

TOWN	Average Residential per Capita Consumption l/p/d 2008	Average Residential per Capita Consumption l/p/d 2009
Bacchus Marsh	165	165
Melton	177	170
Macedon district, including Sunbury, Diggers Rest, Bulla, Macedon, Gisborne, Riddells Creek, Mount Macedon & Woodend	151	145
Romsey & Lancefield	157	142
Sunbury, Diggers Rest & Bulla only	148	139

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