

Media Release



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Water warning: no guarantee of supply during fires

With fire season approaching, Western Water is reminding Macedon Ranges residents that it cannot guarantee water supply in the event of a bushfire.

"We are preparing now for the 2011-12 bushfire season, including readying portable back-up generators, and ensuring storage tank levels are high enough to meet a sudden surge in demand," Western Water's Managing Director, John Wilkinson, says.

"But residents need to be aware that in extreme conditions their water supply may be cut off if our pumps are affected by fire," he says.

"Water pressure may also drop if there is a massive surge in demand for water to fight a fire."

Mr Wilkinson says Western Water works closely with the CFA to ensure fire officers have fast, easy access to water supplies when needed, but residents can also play their part.

"All residents can help by keeping fire hydrants near their properties clear of dirt, grass and shrubs, and reporting any damage to their local council or Western Water," he says.

"It's also important people don't park their vehicles in front of hydrants, so fire fighters can get to them quickly when they need to."

Western Water has dedicated crews on standby over summer to make urgent repairs to water mains and hydrants if necessary during a fire.

Deluge sprinkler systems have also been installed at key sites to protect water supply infrastructure, and each plant is rated under a "risk rating" system, with the help of the CFA.

"These ratings help fire officers decide which sites are critical to protect in the event of a bushfire," Mr Franklin says.

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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 Myrniong 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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