

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Sydney councils making every drop count**

Thursday 23 April 2009

Sydney Councils continue to cut their water use, using 3 million litres less water per day last year compared to the previous year.

NSW Water Minister Phil Costa said 44 councils in Sydney, the Blue Mountains and Illawarra have signed up to Sydney Water's Every Drop Counts Business Program and the results are showing.

"The water savings made through the Every Drop Counts Business Program have been achieved mainly by installing water efficient toilets and taps to council properties, improving water use practices at swimming pools and by recycling stormwater and re-using treated wastewater," said Mr Costa.

"All councils should be congratulated for improving their practices.

"Sydney Water has been working with councils individually to find tailor-made and innovative water savings programs.

Penrith City Council and Kogarah Council are the outstanding achievers this year, with both achieving the prized five-star status.

"They join Rockdale City Council and Hornsby Shire Council as the only other Councils to have received a five-star rating using Sydney Water's One-2-Five Water management diagnostic.

"Sydney Water uses this system to help businesses measure how much water they are using so they can develop a plan of action to help improve the way they manage water, meaning water savings are sustainable in the long-term."

Councils' updated water saving achievements will be detailed at a workshop at Homebush Bay today, which will be attended by representatives from participating councils.

The workshop will recognise the achievements councils have made in saving water and share information to help councils make further water savings.

The Every Drop Counts Business Program also now offers co-funded irrigation assessments to Councils.

More than 400 businesses and councils are part to the Every Drop Counts Business Program, saving over 40 million litres of drinking water a day.

For more information on water saving initiatives, visit [www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au).

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