
MEDIA RELEASE

Rainwater tank rebates hit 50,000 ... and counting

Thursday 22 January 2009

Water Minister Phil Costa today congratulated residents of greater Sydney for continuing to install rainwater tanks and make their homes more water efficient.

During a visit to the Illawarra today, Mr Costa and Minister for the Illawarra David Campbell presented a certificate to the George Family of Fairy Meadow for being the 50,000th Sydney Water customer to take advantage of the Government's rainwater tank rebate.

"This is an important milestone and proof of the great work families across Sydney are doing to save water," said Mr Costa.

"Just over 50,000 rainwater tank rebates across Sydney, the Illawarra and Blue Mountains have been reimbursed totalling more than \$17.5 million.

"From humble beginnings in 2002, tanks installed through the rebate program now save an estimated 1.9 billion litres of water each year," he said.

Mr Campbell said residents of the Illawarra had been very active in installing rainwater tanks and making their homes more water efficient.

"The Illawarra has three of the top four ranked council areas for taking up rainwater tank rebates," Mr Campbell said.

"Sydney Water lists Shellharbour as the top ranked area, followed by Wollongong in second with Kiama in fourth place.

"It's a very significant achievement for the region and we are very proud of our record conserving water during these dry times," he said.

Mr Costa said the average household saves almost 40,000 litres of water a year by installing a tank.

"Rebates of up to \$1500 are available depending on the date purchased and size of the tank, as well as whether you use a qualified plumber to hook-up your washing machine and toilet," Mr Costa said.

"The Rees Government is committed to securing Sydney's long-term water future through dams, recycling, desalination and increased efficiencies.

"The culture of water use across greater Sydney is changing. Everybody understands just how precious our water supply is," said Mr Costa.

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