

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **300th school receives rainwater tank rebate**

Tuesday 10 March 2009

Water Minister Phil Costa and the Member for Oatley Kevin Greene today visited Penshurst Public School, which has become the 300th school across greater Sydney to receive a rainwater tank rebate from the NSW Government.

Mr Costa and Mr Greene, both former school teachers, said the rainwater tanks in schools program, which has been running since 2004, is now saving over 44 million litres of water a year and has provided \$750,000 in rebates.

“As well as reducing schools’ reliance on drinking water, the rainwater tanks in schools program gives students a broader understanding of the water cycle and the importance of wise water use,” said Mr Costa.

“Schools receiving a rebate complete an education program within twelve months of the tank being installed. Sydney Water provides teaching resources and support services to help schools audit water use and develop a water conservation action plan in coordination with the students.

“The education program helps students develop responsible attitudes towards sustainable water use, a lesson many take back to their families and into the future.”

“300 is a great number, but with nearly 1,000 schools eligible for a rebate across greater Sydney I would encourage those without rainwater tanks to look into one,” Mr Costa said.

Mr Greene said Penshurst Public School has installed five 5,000 litre tanks, so captured rainwater can be used to flush toilets as well as to water the school’s grounds.

“I congratulate Penshurst Primary School for being extremely water wise,” said Mr Greene.

“The kids are learning a lot more about water and how to use it responsibly which flows on positively throughout our community,” he said.

All primary and secondary schools connected to the Sydney Water mains water supply can apply for a rebate of \$2,500 on the cost of purchase and installation of rainwater tanks.

For more information and to view the terms and conditions of this rebate program visit [www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au).

The NSW Government is also calling for applications under the Climate Change Fund’s Public Facilities Program to implement water and energy savings in schools, including rainwater tanks. Details at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants).

**Mr Costa and Mr Greene will arrive at Penshurst PS at 9am, Arcadia Rd, Penshurst.**

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