

MEDIA RELEASE

Phil Costa
Minister for Water
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7 October 2009

NEW WATER PRESSURE TECHNOLOGY TO STOP WATER LEAKAGE

New water pressure technology is being installed in high water pressure suburbs across Greater Sydney, under a plan to save more than 30 million litres of water a day by 2012, Minister for Water, Phil Costa announced today.

Minister Costa said more than 150 new water saving pressure valves are being installed across the Greater Sydney water network.

“We’re targeting areas in Sydney that are prone to higher than normal water pressure and to date have installed more than 80 new pressure regulating valves, benefiting 106 suburbs across the Sydney basin,” Mr Costa said.

“This new technology is already helping to save more than 10 million litres of water a day which would normally be lost to leakage.

“The new valve technology works by regulating pressure in water pipes, significantly reducing the risk of leaks and breaks in water pipes.

“It’s estimated that this technology has already prevented an estimated 400 water main breaks - saving more than \$4.6 million in water costs and repairs.

“This project is part of our \$110 annual investment to reducing leaks across our network of pipes – a project that supports 300 jobs.

“By 2012, we expect this new technology will help us save up to 30 million litres of water a day.

“Leaks and breaks not only lead to water loss, but also mean high repair costs and inconvenience for residents and businesses.

“We’re investing a record \$110 million each year to reduce leakage across our network of pipes – each year more than 20,000 kilometres of pipes are scanned for hidden leaks.

“In 2007/08 water leakage was around 8 per cent of our daily use, down from more than 10 per cent in 1999-2000.

“By investing in new technology we’re looking to prevent leaks and breaks making our water go further.

“In the last decade, more than 100,000 kilometres of pipes have been scanned for leaks – equivalent to more than twice the distance around the globe.

“In addition, Sydney Water has crews available around the clock to respond to leaks and breaks and replaces over 100 kilometres of pipes every year through the water main renewal program.

“Along with dams, recycling and desalination, water efficiency is one of four key ways the NSW Government is securing the city’s water supply.

“By 2015 recycling will provide around 12 per cent of Sydney’s water needs, while water efficient devices such as taps, showerheads and washing machines will save up to 24 per cent of Sydney’s water needs.

“The Desalination Plant will come online this summer, and will be fully powered by renewable energy produced at a 67-turbine wind farm at Bungendore.”

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