

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Penrith City Council joins Sydney's elite water managers**

Thursday 30 April 2009

NSW Water Minister Phil Costa has congratulated Penrith City Council for reaching Sydney Water's prized "five-star rating" for water management.

Mr Costa said the Council's annual water use has dropped by more than 94 million litres over the past six years since joining the Every Drop Counts Business Program.

"This is a great achievement. Penrith is one of only four councils to achieve the maximum five-star rating as part of Sydney Water's Every Drop Counts Business Program," he said.

"Thanks to savings made through the program, Sydney councils have cut their water use by 3 million litres per day compared to the same time last year."

Mr Costa was joined by Penrith MP Karyn Paluzzano in congratulating the Council for their outstanding approach to managing water.

"Penrith City Council is doing a great job conserving and reusing water in the local community," said Ms Paluzzano.

"Some of the biggest savings have been achieved through automated irrigation systems and rain sensors at Council playing fields.

"Penrith Council are also reusing backwash at their two swimming pools and have also implemented a major retrofitting program across all Council facilities with efficient taps and showerheads.

"They have also installed a number of rainwater tanks and replaced the air conditioning cooling towers at the administration centre," she added.

Mr Costa said a recent workshop hosted by Sydney Water showcased Penrith's achievements to help other councils to become more water efficient.

"All 44 councils in Sydney Water's area of operations have signed up to the Every Drop Counts Business Program," added Mr Costa.

The One-2-Five diagnostic is a system Sydney Water uses to help organisations measure and audit their progress in water management and to help them improve how efficiently they manage water.

Sydney Water has attracted more than 400 businesses to the Every Drop Counts Business Program since 2001, saving over 40 million litres of water a day.

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