

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Phil Costa**  
**Minister for Water**  
**Minister for Regional Development**



27 September 2009

### **SYDNEY PROVES IT'S WATER WISE**

Three months since the NSW Government introduced new Water Wise Rules ending drought restrictions, Greater Sydney continues to be water wise, Minister for Water, Phil Costa said today.

Minister Costa said an initial assessment of water supplied to Sydney Water since the NSW Government announced Water Wise Rules three months ago shows an increase of just 1.3 per cent.

“Despite having one of the warmest winters on record Greater Sydney continues to conserve water since Water Wise Rules replaced drought restrictions,” Mr Costa said.

“In the last three months our preliminary figures show 118.6 gigalitres of water was supplied by the Sydney Catchment Authority to Sydney Water - up just 1.5 gigalitres from the same period last year.

“The community has shown a terrific understanding of how precious our water is, and the days of wasting water are behind us.

“Water Wise Rules were introduced to provide a common sense blueprint for water use for households to follow, ending five years of tough but necessary drought restrictions.

“The total water consumed by Sydney is now similar to the early 1970s, despite a population increase of about 1.3 million.

“By using water wisely we will be able to save 24 per cent of Sydney's water needs by 2015.

“The new rules give people more flexibility to maintain their gardens and manage water around the home, and reinforce the importance of using water responsibly to minimise waste.

“Businesses such as nurseries and landscaping companies are now automatically exempted and will no longer need to apply for exclusion from the rules. “

Water Wise Rules came into effect on the 22 June 2009 for residents of Sydney, the Blue Mountains and Illawarra. Fines of \$220 for individuals and \$550 for businesses apply for breaches.

The new Water Wise Rules allow:

- Hand-held hoses, sprinklers and watering systems on any day before 10am and after 4pm. Hand-held hoses must be fitted with a trigger nozzle when watering
- Children may play under the sprinkler on a hot day
- Washing vehicles using a trigger nozzle
- Fire hoses for fire-fighting only
- No hosing of hard surfaces except for health and safety purposes or emergency and construction activities

- Automatic exclusion for nurseries, market gardeners, landscapers, garden contractors, bowling greens, cricket wickets, golf tees and croquet, hockey, tennis and racing surfaces.

Previous Level 3 restrictions included:

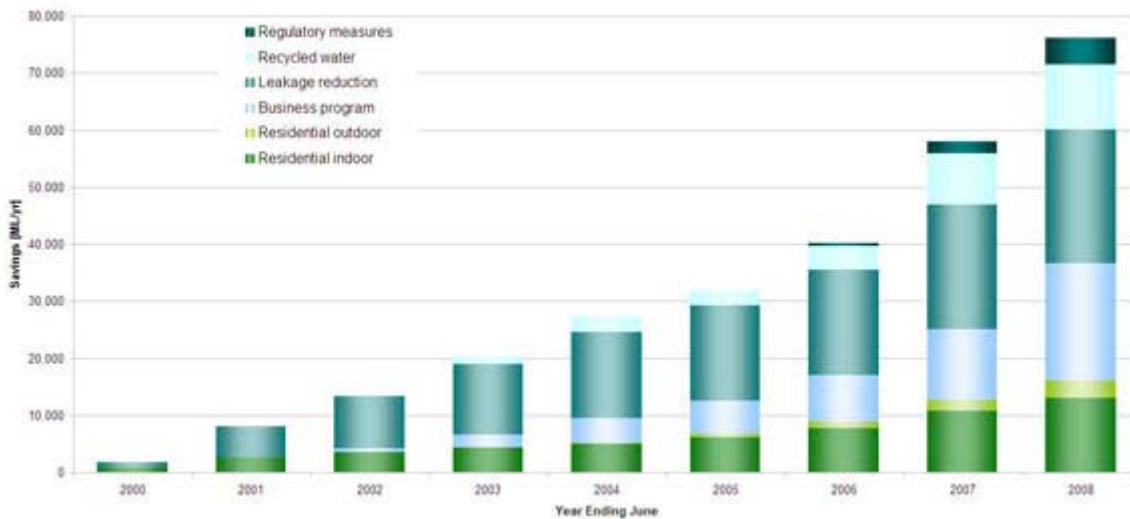
- Hand held watering only on Wednesdays and Sundays before 10am and after 4pm – watering systems and sprinklers are banned.
- Permits are required to fill new swimming pools and special permits must be obtained by outdoor businesses and community and sporting groups who maintain facilities.
- No hosing of hard surfaces

“On Wednesday I advised Sydney’s residents will be able to wash down their houses, driveways and cars to help clean following the dust storm,” Mr Costa said.

“This is allowed under the Water Wise Rules as high concentrations of dust can cause respiratory problems and has health implications for people with asthma and breathing difficulties.

“I congratulate Sydney for once again taking up the challenge to be water wise - building on a decade of success in achieving water savings.”

### Annual water savings for Greater Sydney since 2000



**Media contact:** Claire March 0403 937 849