



MEDIA RELEASE

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HUNTER GROWS BUT FLOW SLOWS

Homes across the Hunter are using 10,000 less litres of water annually compared to just a few years ago.

Hunter Water figures show the average water consumption per household has dropped from 182 kilolitres per year in 2011 to 172 kilolitres in 2015.

Hunter Water Interim CEO Jeremy Bath said Water Wise Rules have more than offset the extra water being supplied to new houses built during the past year.

“In the last 12 months alone, 8,000 new homes have connected to Hunter Water’s network. Despite this total water use has fallen by 4.5 billion litres.

“This is the one of the largest single year reductions since the early 1980s, when water usage fell by 6.5 billion litres after Hunter Water was the first to bill people based on how much water they used.

“Weather patterns play a significant part in water consumption from year to year, however the large drop from 2014 to 2015 shows that widespread compliance with Water Wise Rules is contributing to the downward trend in household water use.

“People in the Hunter are environmentally conscious and don’t need much encouragement when it comes to saving water.

“When Water Wise Rules came into effect last year we promised that the rules would help secure our water supply for the next two decades. In 15 months we’ve received just 60 reports of people breaching the rules.

“Adding to the savings families are making with Water Wise Rules is another 1.5 billion litres already saved via the Kooragang Recycled Water Scheme. Switched on in December it turns effluent into water cleaner than rainwater, which is purchased by Orica for its cooling towers.

“With summer just around the corner and more people spending time in their yard, it’s important we don’t get complacent. On a hot day, Hunter Water can lose up to 600 million litres of water through a double whammy of increased usage and evaporation from our two dams.

“Hunter Water is helping people comply with the rules, and will be out in the community over the coming months handing out free trigger nozzles and answering any questions,” he said.

The Water Wise Rules are:

1. all hoses must have a trigger nozzle attached
2. watering lawns and gardens is only allowed before 10am and after 4pm
3. don’t hose hard surfaces e.g. driveways, footpaths.

Visit hunterwater.com.au/events to find where you can collect a free trigger nozzle, and visit hunterwater.com.au/waterwise to learn more about the rules.

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