



2 August 2019

Hunter Water calls for conservation as dam levels fall

The Hunter is being encouraged to Love Water and help conserve our drinking water supplies, with the region's dams at their lowest levels in 21 years.

Like much of NSW, the drought has taken a toll on Hunter Water's storages, which have dropped to 65.9 per cent capacity this week. The last time the levels fell below this total was in 1998.

As we've experienced a hot and very dry autumn and winter, the need to save our precious drinking water remains more important than ever.

"As the dry conditions persist, we need to do everything we can to preserve our supplies over the months ahead to ensure we start summer in a reasonable position," said Hunter Water Chief Investment Officer, Darren Cleary.

"On average we use around 190 to 200 litres of water per person each day in the Hunter. When compared to other areas like Melbourne for example, where customers use approximately 160 litres a day, there's more we can be doing to drive usage down.

"If the dams continue to fall and usage remains high, we could reach 60% storage in mid-September which is the trigger for Level 1 water restrictions.

"It's really important we work together to save water. By making small, simple changes at home, we all could be using about four buckets of water less per day. Things like reducing our showers to four minutes and ensuring our rainwater tanks are working properly can make a big difference in how much water we use.

"Hunter Water is increasing its active leak detection work throughout the network, and has achieved a 20 per cent reduction in leakage over two years. We are also working with large customers to help them identify water savings while maintaining continuity of operations over the months ahead."

Saving your four buckets of water a day can be easy:

- Aim for a 4 minute shower or the length of your favourite song. If everyone did this, we'd save at least a bucket of water each person or around 4 million litres in a single day.
- Waiting for a full load before putting your washing on.
- Watering your garden before 10am or after 4pm to avoid evaporation during the warmest part of the day.

For more information and useful water saving tips, visit: www.hunterwater.com.au/Save-Water