

## Question on Notice

No. 15

Asked on 6 February 2007

**Ms DARLING** asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure (Ms BLIGH) –

### QUESTION:

Residents in Brisbane are well aware of water-saving strategies, but what can businesses and community groups do to save water?

### ANSWER:

Level 4 restrictions commenced on 1 November 2006. These restrictions apply to both residential and non-residential users of the reticulated water supply. Water savings are currently running at approximately 30% or 300 million litres (ML) per day compared to usage prior to the introduction of water restrictions in May 2005.

Level 4 business and industry water efficiency measures are currently being implemented and it is expected these permanent savings will begin to be delivered during the next few months. Level 4 non - residential water restrictions require the submission of a Water Efficiency Management Plan (WEMP) to Council for commercial and industrial customers:

- By 30 April 2007 for customers using over 20ML of town water per annum; and
- By 31 July 2007 for customers using between 10ML and 20ML of town water per annum.

Water Efficiency Management Plans (WEMPs) are a practical means by which industry and businesses can come to terms with their own water use and define permanent savings opportunities. Savings identified in the WEMP are to be achieved in accordance with the implementation times outlined in the WEMP.

Level 4 restrictions also require that businesses which use more than 1ML per annum must ensure all taps, showerheads and trigger sprays are water efficient by 30 June 2007.

To assist business in reducing their water use the Queensland Government runs the Business Water Efficiency Program. This \$40 million program provides a rebate to businesses to implement approved efficiency measures. Twenty-one local governments are participating in this program scheduled to deliver a minimum of 12 ML/d savings by April 2008. Rebates to businesses can be up to 50% of capital and project costs depending on the level of annual water usage.

The Queensland Water Commission and the Queensland Government will continue to work with industry associations - to encourage and promote the adoption of best practice water efficiency throughout all industry sectors. Information to assist business in reducing its water use can be found on the website of the Queensland Water Commission at: [www.qwc.qld.gov.au](http://www.qwc.qld.gov.au).

The Queensland Government acknowledges that the current drought is having an impact on community groups. That is why the Queensland Government established the Lifestyle WaterWise grants program, a \$10 million program to encourage not-for-profit organisations to reduce consumption of treated drinking water.

The Lifestyle WaterWise program delivers on an election commitment by the Government to assist Queensland's not-for-profit organisations to maintain gardens, parks and sporting fields during the drought. This program means Queensland sporting clubs, P&Cs, churches and community childcare, kindergartens and preschools will be able to access grants of up to \$30,000 to implement waterwise measures.

Eligible measures could include improving watering systems for parks, gardens or sporting fields, replacing existing water-use devices such as single-flush toilets, providing alternative water sources such as water tanks, and installing swimming pool covers and rollers.

The Queensland Government encourages Queensland clubs and organisations to put their hand up for this assistance to help them save water, save money, and access alternative water supplies. Applications will be prioritised to assist organisations in greatest need.

There are two levels of Lifestyle WaterWise grants – up to \$30,000 and between \$3,000 and \$10,000 for organisations seeking smaller grants.

Projects should fall under four categories:

1. Improving sportsground or park watering systems;
2. Replacing existing water-use devices (eg. single-flush toilets);
3. Providing alternative water sources; and
4. Installing swimming pool covers and rollers.

Lifestyle WaterWise application forms are available at [www.nrw.qld.gov.au](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au) or by calling 1800 243 585.

This program complements the initiatives already in place for homes and business, which are proving hugely successful.