



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **RIVERINA WATER LAUNCH TOILET REBATE SCHEME**

Riverina Water are launching a new program for its water customers aimed at replacing old inefficient toilets with new dual flush units. The program makes it very easy for householders to get a new toilet, installed by a qualified plumber and get \$100 off the price. The program is being run by Prime Industries, a subsidiary of Caroma Dorf. An MOU was signed on the 8th of April 2010 with Prime Industries and the first brochures were available at the Wagga Home Expo on the weekend.

Managing the program at the Riverina Water end is Works Engineer Natalie Eisenhauer. "The ToiletSmart Rebate scheme is being run successfully in a number of places already, including Canberra, Bathurst, Tamworth and Goulburn. The aim is to advance the rate of replacement of the older single flush toilets with new 4 star rated dual flush toilets." Mrs Eisenhauer explained that the older toilets use about 11 litres per flush. The new units are four-and-a-half and three litre flushes and are much more efficient.

"By pressing the full or half flush buttons, an average household can save around 35,000 litres of water per annum. This not only benefits the household by saving money on the water bill, but it also reduces the overall demand for water in our city and towns" Mrs Eisenhauer explained that there is an added bonus. "The State Government currently offers a toilet rebate of \$200 for approved toilet retrofits. This means that householders may get a total of \$300 off the price."

General Manager of Riverina Water, Gerald Pieper, was very pleased with the program being kicked off. "This is part of our new focus on demand management. We are allocating funds that focus on changing the end uses of water. Toilets are just one of those end uses and this program will do a good job of addressing water efficiency there".

Mr Pieper went on to explain that Riverina Water will also be putting a big focus on outdoor water use in the future and particularly on how much lawn is being irrigated. "The budget being recommended to the Council for 2010/11 has significant funding to address outdoor water use and also to continue the toilet rebate scheme".

When asked why this work is necessary Mr Pieper responded. "It is not just in this drought that water has been scarce. Both the Commonwealth and State Governments are very concerned with the over-extraction of water from the Murray-Darling Basin. We can expect requirements being placed on us to reduce water consumption if we don't do something now to reduce water demands, and particularly in summer. This may include enforced restrictions by our NSW Government regulators."

The toilet rebate application brochures are available from the Riverina Water office or by phoning the ToiletSmart Hotline on 1300 749 794

Media contact Mr Gerald Pieper, General Manager - Riverina Water County Council

Riverina Water County Council, PO Box 456 (91 Hammond Avenue)  
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650 Telephone: 02 69220608