

PRESS RELEASE

CRITICAL WATER SITUATION

Riverina Water County Council has been advised by the NSW Department of Water and Energy that its water allocation from the 1st July 2009 has been reduced by 50%. Even though there has been good rainfall in the local area, the main water storage dams supplying the Murrumbidgee River are at critically low levels.

Riverina Water recognizes the serious nature of the critically low water storage levels and the need to take action. It will be necessary for all of Council's residential and commercial customers to work to a target water consumption. Keeping to the target consumption may avoid the need to apply formal restrictions when Summer approaches.

The daily targets for water consumption will be widely advertised, commencing in August 2009 and will be determined to align with the reduced annual water allocation.

To achieve the target water consumption it is recommended that all residential and commercial customers of Riverina Water refrain from using fixed sprinklers and sprays on gardens and lawns and check that automatic systems are not irrigating. Also all indoor use of water should be carried out efficiently.

Council's Chairman, Rod Kendall, reinforced the message. "Times have changed and we can't expect an unlimited supply of water from the Murrumbidgee. We will have to start using a lot less water than we have in the past. "

Clr Kendall advised that the Council would be considering a report on the matter of water targets at the August meeting of Riverina Water. "If our customers adhere to the adopted consumption targets, formal restrictions may be avoided. We expect our summer targets will allow a restricted level of outside watering. I have great confidence in our local community and believe we can do it."

Media contact. Council Chairman Cr Rod Kendall.

G.W. Pieper
GENERAL MANAGER

15th July 2009