

STAGE TWO WATER RESTRICTIONS ARE STILL IN PLACE IN MELBOURNE

As we enter summer and spend a lot more time in the garden, it is important to remember that the following water restrictions apply

PRIVATE & PUBLIC GARDENS

- Private lawns cannot be watered
- Lawns in public gardens can be watered as per gardens and flower beds
- Gardens and flower beds can only be watered by: Hand-held hoses with or without a trigger nozzle, watering cans and buckets at any time. Manual watering systems (that you turn on or off by hand) between 5am and 8am and 8pm and 11pm. Automatic watering systems (that turn themselves on and off) between 11pm and 6am.

POOLS & SPAS

- Pools & spas of fewer than 500 litres can be filled and topped up using a bucket or hand held hose, with or without a

trigger nozzle, at any time. No approval is needed.

- Previously filled pools or spas can be topped up using a handheld hose, with or without a trigger nozzle, at any time.
- Customers wishing to fill a new pool or spa, or empty and refill an existing pool or spa of between 500 litres and 2,000 litres require written approval from their government water retailer.
- Customers wishing to fill a new pool or spa, empty and refill an existing pool or spa of more than 2,000 litres are required to submit a Water Conservation Plan and have it approved by their government water retailer.
- Water toys operating with water from a hose *must not* be used (includes slip 'n' slides, super soakers and children's water fountains).

VEHICLE

- No hoses can be used, except those connected to a high pressure water cleaning unit.
- Can be cleaned by buckets and watering cans filled directly from

a tap, or by high-pressure water cleaning units, to pre-rinse, wash and rinse off.

- Can be cleaned by commercial car washes that recycle water, or use high-pressure water cleaning units.
- Hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle can be used to clean the inside of tankers, only to avoid contamination or to ensure public safety.

PAVED AREAS

- Paved areas including concrete *must not* be washed except in the case of an accident, fire, hazard to health or environment or as part of construction activity.

SPORTS GROUNDS & RECREATIONAL AREAS

- Sports grounds including golf courses can be watered between 5pm and 10am once a Water Conservation Plan is lodged and approved by their government water retailer.

→ Formal cricket pitches, golf tees and greens, bowling greens, croquet lawns, synthetic hockey grounds and tennis courts (including synthetic and en tout cas) and en tout cas baseball diamonds can be watered by:

- Hand-held hoses, with or without a trigger nozzle, at any time;
- Manual watering systems (that you turn on or off by hand) between 5am and 8am and 8pm and 11pm;
- and Automatic watering systems (that turn themselves on and off) between 11pm and 6am.

REGISTERED PRESCHOOLS, CHILDCARE CENTRES AND KINDERGARTENS

- Grassed areas can be watered between 5pm and 10am once a Water Conservation Plan is lodged and approved by a government water retailer*.

PLEASE NOTE: no restrictions will apply in the case of accident, fire, hazard to health or environment. This is an indicative summary of Stage 2 restrictions. Concessions to basic Stage 2 water restrictions. For information contact your government water retailer*.

→ City West Water: 131 691 → South East Water: 131 867 → Yarra Valley Water: 131 721



Premier's message

VICTORIA has had some good rains but it's been little more than a drop in the dam. Our water saving efforts are working, but our dams are still almost half-empty. Whatever the weather, we all need to save water every day. It's our water... our future.

Going with the flow

School kids tap into the future

MELBOURNE'S schoolchildren are leading the way in water conservation with the help of an innovative education program.

The *Water: Learn It, Live It* kit is a collection of resources, informative games and practical activities for students, teachers and their local communities to become water wise.

The scheme links schools to community activities and water-distributing businesses through its website.

The package was launched in March as part of the State Government's water resource strategy.

Environment Minister John Thwaites said: "It encourages future generations to not only learn about the importance of securing water supplies, but make saving water part of their everyday lives."

The kit features activities for students from years prep to 10, including curriculum advice and a framework for schools to develop their own programs.

Tania Spiegel, a teacher at Gardenvale Primary School, finds the kit "teacher-friendly".

"It is a well-organised package that provides lots of practical activities that can be applied in the classroom."

"The in-service training day run by our government water business was also valuable in demonstrating how much *Water: Learn It, Live It* has to offer," she said.

"Focusing on the value of water has encouraged us to be more aware of activities in the wider community that are connected to water conservation."

As part of the program, Gardenvale Primary student Alex McEwan took out first prize with his water wise mural and won a rainwater tank for his school.

The program provides schools with the tools to embed water education in the curriculum and incorporate water conservation into their day-to-day operations.

For more information visit

www.ourwater.vic.gov.au

Alternatively, call your water supplier: City West Water, 13 16 91, Melbourne Water, 13 17 22, South East Water, 13 16 94, or Yarra Valley Water, 13 17 21.



Tankfull: Alex McEwan, with teacher Tania Spiegel, displays his mural that won a rainwater tank for his school. Picture: CAMERON L'ESTRANGE

RIVERS are the lifeblood of Victoria. Most of the fresh water we use comes from rivers, creeks and aquifers (underground water storages).

Yet, while rivers provide water for human needs they also play a vital role in maintaining the water cycle and natural ecosystem. This is a difficult balancing act and one that has, all too often, been put in the "too hard basket".

Unfortunately, we are only now truly recognising the impact that consumption has had on our waterways. Over the years Victoria has taken so much water from its natural water sources that many of our rivers, such as the Murray and Snowy, are stressed.

Two thirds of our major waterways are degraded and only 22 per cent of these rivers can be labelled as being in good or excellent condition.

As healthy rivers are essential to secure Victoria's water future, action must be taken to redress the balance of these vital systems.

The good news is that a rescue package is under way.

Earlier this year, as part of its *Water Our Future* action plan, the Government committed \$100 million to protect and repair the rivers and aquifers (underground water storages).

The funding will be used to restore and safeguard river systems across the state, including specific projects on major rivers such as the Thomson and Macalister, Loddon, Lower Goulburn, Broken, Ovens, Wimmera, Glenelg, Lower Werribee and East Gippsland rivers, as well as restoring the Great Ocean Road Estuaries.

The new projects will complement the work of the Victorian River Health Program, under which the Department of Sustainability and Environment works with Catchment Management Authorities and Melbourne Water to create localised River Health Strategies — blueprints to ensure that our rivers have a future.

Dr Jane Doolan, director for River Health and principal scientist at the Department of Sustainability and Environment, says Victoria's approach to river management is acknowledged for its innovation.

"Victoria now has an ambitious, integrated approach to river health management which recognises the complexity of river systems," she says.

"Rather than looking at single issues — such as bed and bank erosion or water quality — our approach looks at the bigger picture of river health."

OUR river managers identify the range of social, environmental and economic values of local waterways, and design an integrated program of actions to protect these values that are important to our communities.

"Our *Water Our Future* outlines a package of actions to safeguard the state's rivers. Under this plan, a first in Australia's legal history, water will now be set aside specifically to secure the long-term health of rivers in what will now be known as the Environmental Water Reserve."

"With smart planning and targeted localised works, we will ensure that Victoria has a secure water future."