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For immediate release

Lake shower upgrades go to water charity

Hunter Water and Lake Macquarie City Council's joint showerhead replacement program has generated \$1000 for international water charity WaterAid.

The program enabled Lake Macquarie residents to replace old water guzzling showerheads with new water efficient models free of charge, after which the old showerheads were recycled for scrap metal to raise money for charity.

Staff from Hunter Water and Lake Macquarie City Council today donated the proceeds of the recycled showerheads to WaterAid's Head of Fundraising, Ewan Isbister.

Hunter Water General Water Efficiency Program Coordinator Martin Conner said the program provided a great opportunity to improve water and energy efficiency in our homes while supporting water initiatives in communities struggling to meet even basic needs.

"WaterAid works with communities living with poverty and disease caused by unsafe drinking water," Mr Conner said.

"The showerhead replacement program enabled us to send strong messages to local residents about both water efficiency and the value of a healthy drinking water supply.

"One of the key ways Hunter Water's is securing our drinking water supply in the long term is through water efficiency. Replacing out of date fixtures in the home can go a long way to saving water and money for local households," Mr Conner added.

The program was a huge success, with over 400 households exchanging 600 showerheads over two open days in Belmont and Toronto. The more efficient showerheads will potentially save over 8,500 thousand litres of tap water a year and an estimated 304 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions through reduced hot water use.

More information: Elisha Yorke on 4979 9524 or 0427 547 498