



Media Release

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For immediate release

Stockton Drinking Water Station

The first water bottle refill station in the Newcastle local government area has been launched at the Mitchell Street Ferry wharf in Stockton, ready to help foreshore visitors save money and the environment.

The station is part of a trial by Hunter Water and The City of Newcastle to encourage people to refill reusable bottles rather than buy disposable plastic ones.

The refill station is located in a convenient spot for the many walkers and commuters using the ferry wharf area. A second station will soon be trialled at Dixon Park Beach in preparation for a broader rollout of stations along the Stockton and Newcastle foreshores.

The City of Newcastle's Environment and Climate Change Services Manager, Peter Dormand, said plastic bottle use was on the rise in Australia with much of the waste ending up in landfill.

"With 2.7 million tonnes of plastic being used to produce plastic bottles worldwide each year, and over 65% of that ending up in landfill, we need to be making it easier for people to refill and reuse," Mr Dormand said.

"Filling a reusable bottle also reduces your carbon footprint when you consider the energy used to produce a plastic bottle, transport it to the shop, refrigerate it and then dispose of it as waste. Australia's annual bottled water use generates the same amount of carbon pollution as 13,000 cars in a year."

Hunter Water General Manager Systems Strategy and Sustainability, Peter Dennis, said the refill station was another sustainability initiative to help local residents make a difference.

"The water refill station is a fantastic way to make the most of the Hunter's top quality drinking water, and the result of a great partnership with The City of Newcastle.

"We know the community is keen to find more sustainable ways to use water, and opting for reusable bottles is easier and cheaper than buying bottled water," Mr Dennis said.

The refill station also includes a hygienic bubbler for thirsty people without a bottle.

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