



# Media Release

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**For immediate release**

## Setting the trend for water efficiency

When it comes to saving water, Maitland residents are once again the most improved, cutting their usage by a massive 9,000 litres per household over a 12 month period.

Hunter Water annual data, from August 2010 to August 2011, also shows that Newcastle households continue to have the overall lowest water consumption rate in the lower Hunter, at 164kL per annum.

Hunter Water's General Manager System Strategy and Sustainability, Peter Dennis said annual average water usage across the region shows a continued and steady decrease.

"Across the Lower Hunter it is pleasing to see a continued reduction in water usage from all areas, with the region reducing its usage by around 2.8% overall" Mr Dennis said.

"The biggest reductions were seen in the Maitland area, with residents knocking 4.4 percent off their annual usage rate."

Each of the six Local Government Areas within Hunter Water's area of operations recorded significant decreases in water usage, as shown in the table below:

Average consumption per residential connection (20 Aug 2010 to 19 Aug 2011)			
	2011-12 (KL)	2010-11 (KL)	Change
2010-11 Newcastle City Council	160	164	▼ 2.44%
2010-11 Lake Macquarie City Council	177	183	▼ 3.28%
2010-11 Port Stephens Council	180	184	▼ 2.17%
<b>2010-11 Lower Hunter (average)</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>▼ 2.78%</b>
2010-11 Cessnock City Council	184	189	▼ 2.65%
2010-11 Maitland City Council	194	203	▼ 4.43%
2010-11 Dungog Shire Council	183	191	▼ 4.19%

"Consistent rainfall over the past 12 months would be a contributing factor, however the six year trend showing ongoing reductions demonstrates our customers' commitment to being water wise," said Mr Dennis.

"Over the past six years, our region's annual water consumption has dropped by 14,000 litres per household. That's a massive saving every year that not only benefits customers on their water bill, but also helps the environment.

"Since the early adoption of users pays the Hunter has always been a leader in residential water efficiency. However there is of course always more work to be done in positioning our region as a leader in water efficiency."

Residents can learn about the many ways to save water in the household by going to Hunter Water's website at [www.hunterwater.com.au](http://www.hunterwater.com.au).

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