



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 20 November 2015

HUNTER DAMS TO FEEL THE HEAT

Hunter Water is bracing for an extra 130 million litres to be drained from its dams today with the temperature set to scorch at 40 degrees.

The Hunter's average daily water consumption is 184 million litres, however that number jumps to as high as 315 million in hot, dry weather.

Hunter Water Interim CEO Jeremy Bath said residents need to look after themselves as well as their dams.

"On 21 November last year the mercury topped 40 degrees and Hunter Water saw an additional 90 million litres of water used in just 24 hours.

"The spikes in temperature have a double whammy effect on our water supply, with Hunter Water losing as much from evaporation as what we do in water usage, which can total over 600 million litres.

"We're lucky that our dam levels are at 96 percent heading into summer, thanks to some soaking rain over the last few months.

"Last November's heatwave however saw Chichester Dam alone lose 10 percent of its volume and our total storages drop by a whopping 5 percent, which is over 13 billion litres.

"Knowing the hot dry weather can quickly drain our dams, it's important to remind customers that Water Wise Rules are in place all year round. These rules save 1 billion litres of drinking water per year and include no hosing hard surfaces, always use a trigger nozzle, and only water lawns and gardens before 10am and after 4pm.

"The Hunter is not immune to drought. On this day 35 years ago the Hunter was in dire straits, with our dams at 43% and Stage 3 water restrictions in place.

"Conserving water is important in hot weather, but what's much more important is people's health.

"Not drinking enough water on hot days can make people sick, or worse. On a regular day men should be drinking at least 2.5 litres of water while women should drink 2 litres.

"In conditions like the 40 degree heat we're expecting today, people should be getting up to 1 litre per hour, especially if they're exercising or working outdoors," he said.

Historical 20 November Dam Levels

1979	86%
1980	43.2%
1985	94.7%
1994	61.6%
2004	85.2%
2014	79.6%

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