



# MEDIA RELEASE

9 November 2015

## PRISTINE MOUNTAIN WATER DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME FOR LESS THAN A CENT PER LITRE

It flows from lush mountains in the World Heritage listed Barrington Tops before being delivered by clean gravity energy directly to Hunter homes and businesses. It's tap water, it costs 1,000 times less than bottled water, it's good for your health, and Hunter Water wants you to drink it.

Australians spend over half a billion dollars on bottled water every year, with more than half of those bottles ending up in landfill or littered, making them number one on Clean Up Australia's top 10 list of collected rubbish.

Hunter Water Interim Chief Executive Officer Jeremy Bath said that as we enter the peak bottled water season, it's important for people to remember the true cost of buying bottled.

"It's staggering that in the Hunter where we have some of the most pure water in Australia, some people are still choosing to buy bottled water.

"Much of the water that flows through local taps and showers has its origin in an unspoiled national park and undergoes a world class purification process that costs customers just a fraction of a cent per litre.

"Bottled water on the other hand has an average \$2.50 price tag per litre, with the majority of the cost going towards the packaging and the label.

"The real cost of bottled water however is to the environment. Producing and transporting bottled water produces 60,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually in Australia, the equivalent of 13,000 cars.

"It also takes 200 millilitres of oil and three litres of water to produce and deliver every litre of bottled water, giving it a carbon footprint 300 times the size of tap water.

"Many people believe that by buying bottled water they are paying for a product that is cleaner and healthier than tap water. However bottled water isn't tested for safety like tap water is, and many bottled water brands are just tap water anyway.

"This summer while you're out walking the dog, riding a bike or playing sport, take a reusable bottle from home and fill it up with some of the best quality water in Australia, straight from the tap," he said.

Whitebridge High School has joined the many Hunter institutions making tap water the drink of choice, after its students and parents won a Hunter Water grant to install a bottle refill station.

Whitebridge High School P&C President Christine Beverly said the refill stations have reduced waste at the school and encouraged its 1,100 students to bring reusable bottles.

"Students typically don't like to drink from bubblers anymore and without somewhere to refill a bottle, most were buying bottled water or soft drinks. These bottles would inevitably litter the playground. Using a grant from Hunter Water we've been able to install refill stations that encourage students to drink tap water without the 'yuck' factor that young people sometimes associate with a bubbler," she said.

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