



MEDIA RELEASE

15 January 2017

HUNTER WATER HELPS EMERGENCY CONSERVATION EFFORT

Hunter Water has provided an emergency three million litres of water into the Hunter's wetlands to support nesting birdlife struggling in the hot, dry conditions.

Due to the prolonged dry summer weather, the wetlands are experiencing record low water levels, causing many young egrets to perish.

The one-off emergency injection of water came at the request of the Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia's CEO Dr Stuart Blanch.

"It has been heart-breaking to see birds and their chicks dying in our internationally significant wetlands because we can't keep their home full of water," Dr Blanch said.

"I am grateful for the generous support from Hunter Water. The emergency water donation will maintain habitat for thousands of our breeding egrets, keeping the wetlands alive until more substantive rains."

The emergency donation was only possible due to conservation steps from the Hunter's homes and businesses that are helping to save water, and Hunter Water's own programmes to promote water efficient behaviours and reduce leakage.

"Just like at the wetlands, the warm and dry summer conditions have also taken their toll on Hunter Water's Dams, which are at their lowest summer levels in more than a decade," Hunter Water's Managing Director Jim Bentley said.

"Hunter Water has made significant inroads to reduce our own leakage, including by using new tools to manage our water network better. By following waterwise rules at home, and making water efficient choices when upgrading household appliances, we can each play a role in protecting our most precious resource."

More information about how to be water efficient around your home or business can be at [Hunter Water's website](#).

Keiran Smith | 0406 702 208 | keiran.smith@hunterwater.com.au