



MAKING WAVES

APRIL - JUNE 2014

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WATER WISE RULES ARE COMING

On 2 April the NSW Government released the Lower Hunter Water Plan which sets out a guide for how we can meet the region's future water needs. This includes Water Wise Rules, something that everyone in the community can do to help reduce water consumption while also reducing their water bill. Water Wise Rules come into place on 1 July this year.

The rules are common sense ways of how you can save water outside your home. The rules can be summarised into three main ways of using water wisely:

- Use a trigger nozzle on all hand held hoses.
- Don't use water on hard surfaces such as driveways and paths.
- Water gardens and lawns before 10am and after 4pm.

For more information visit hunterwater.com.au/waterwise.



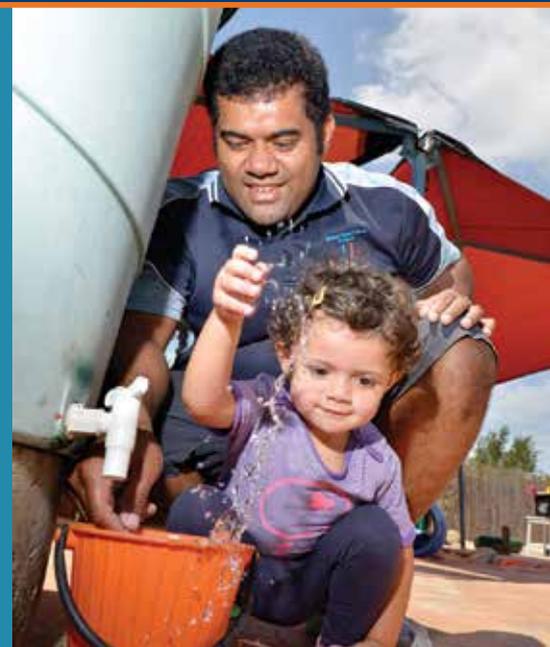
SUSTAINABILITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

In 2013 Hunter Water provided 13 sustainability grants to local organisations. Each grant has been used to fund a project in the Lower Hunter which range from habitat rehabilitation to water education in daycare centres.

One of the current grant recipients is Maitland City Council with their program 'Think Before You Drink'. The Council will be attending 100 daycare centres to educate children and provide resources about water conservation and the water cycle. These are skills the children will practice in everyday life.

Applications for a sustainability grant are available from 1 May until 1 June 2014. For more information visit hunterwater.com.au/grants.

Image courtesy of the Maitland Mercury.



GET UPDATED ON BEACH WATER QUALITY

The water quality of every beach in Newcastle is tested weekly throughout the year.

Hunter Water collects the sample which is then independently tested on behalf of the NSW Government's Beachwatch Program.

Beachwatch has been testing local beaches for 15 years and for every one of those years, local beaches have been rated the cleanest in the state. This is a tremendous achievement given local beaches are competing for that honour with 239

other NSW beaches including Sydney ocean beaches, Illawarra ocean beaches and Mid and Far North Coast beaches.

Last year 16 of our 17 local beaches received a perfect score from Beachwatch.

You can receive advice on local beach closures via Twitter (@BeachwatchNSW) or via a daily email service at environment.nsw.gov.au/beach/bulletinsignup.htm.

You can also view the weekly water quality results for all 17 local beaches at hunterwater.com.au/beaches.



DRY SUMMER REMINDS US TO BE WATER CONSCIOUS

The Lower Hunter experienced just a fraction of its average rainfall over Summer as well as unseasonably hot, windy weather.

This led to water storages dropping daily and was another reminder of how variable our weather can be.

The drop in dam levels would have been even greater if the community was not already conscious of its water use. Through the adoption of water efficient behaviour, combined with improved technology in washing machines, shower heads, toilets and dishwashers, total water use in the Lower Hunter has fallen by 10% since 2004.

Hunter Water has a plan to save 268 million litres of water this financial year, with a significant portion of that coming from large businesses. By working closely with businesses that use over 50 million litres of water annually, Hunter Water can significantly reduce pressure on our drinking water supply while also reducing the water bills of some of our largest customers. To achieve this, Hunter Water efficiency experts are reviewing business water use and developing individualised programs to save on activities like irrigation, cooling and cleaning.

Hunter Water is looking to make savings too, with our 5,000 kilometre network of water pipes receiving \$18 million to repair and reduce leaks.

There is no reason why the Lower Hunter should expect water restrictions any time soon. Together, through advances in technology and a conscious effort to use only the water that we need, we can continue to reduce our individual water use to counter the varied and unpredictable weather conditions we face.

