



New South Wales

Minister Phillip Costa MP

Minister for Water
Minister for Rural Affairs
Minister for Regional Development

MEDIA RELEASE

Grant to save businesses water and money

Wednesday 21 January 2009

Water Minister Phil Costa has today encouraged businesses across Sydney, the Illawarra and Blue Mountains to apply for grants of up to \$20,000 for projects that reduce water use.

Mr Costa said the NSW Government's pilot Water Saver Grant program could assist small and medium businesses by funding up to 50 percent of a new water efficient project.

"Businesses in greater Sydney use about 420 million litres of water a day. Almost 20 per cent of this water is used by small to medium businesses," he said.

"Improving water efficiency in businesses using between 20,000 and 80,000 litres of water a day could save over 350 million litres of water each year.

"Many small and medium businesses can make huge reductions in their water use by retrofitting taps and toilets, replacing products and appliances with more water efficient equipment or re-engineering business operations or processes.

"While making these changes will save businesses money over time, they can sometimes be hard for smaller business to pay for upfront.

"Through the Water Saver Grant program, Sydney Water will reimburse successful applicants for half the cost of water efficiency projects valued between \$4,000 and \$40,000.

"By reducing the upfront cost, the Government hopes to encourage businesses to develop and implement innovative ways to reduce water use.

"The Water Saver Grant program is one of several ways the Rees Government is helping businesses become more water efficient.

"About 40 million litres of water a day is being saved through the Every Drop Counts Business Program," added the Minister.

Only eligible businesses can apply for a Water Savers Grant. Applicants must arrange for a licensed plumber to assess how their business can become more water efficient and provide a quote detailing the cost of the project and the estimated water savings.

Application information and the full terms and conditions are available by visiting www.sydneywater.com.au, or emailing EDCBusiness@sydneywater.com.au including Water Save Grant in the subject line or by calling 9350 6205.

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Media Contact Peter McCabe 0439 707 101