

State Government changes water conservation message midstream

The NSW Government is sending mixed messages on water conservation by easing water restrictions one week and then embarking on a \$2.15 million water saving advertising campaign the next.

Our rainfall will be more variable under climate change and we must all continue to use water efficiently now to meet the demands of future dry periods.

The Government has shown it is out of touch with the people of NSW who have adapted well to water restrictions and did not ask for water saving measures to be lifted.

With little impact on the average household, the State Government could have retained water restrictions and used the \$2.15 million advertising spend on real water saving options, including expanding our level of recycling and incentives for rainwater tanks.

Water restrictions give the Government time to expand our level of recycling, increase the number of rainwater tanks and improve our water conservation. These measures are more sustainable options than the desalination plant for securing our water supply.

Read more about effective urban water strategies, including demand management, recycling and rainwater harvesting [here](#) .

Meanwhile, the WA Government is trialling a winter water sprinkler ban for Perth, Mandurah and the whole of southern Western Australia from today (July 1) until August 31, 2009. It will apply to integrated scheme water, garden bore users and selected licensees.

WA Water Minister Graham Jacobs hopes the strategy will restrain water demand, which has remained "ridiculously high" despite the drier and warmer than normal winter conditions experienced in the state.

"Irrigation experts have consistently said that in many parts of southern Western Australian gardens do not need watering during winter. This trial will identify if and how permanent bans should be applied in winter," he said.