



MEDIA RELEASE

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Testing the waters leads to huge savings for NSW councils

NSW councils are now saving the equivalent of one 600ml bottle for each and every person in Australia every day, thanks to an innovative program that identifies leakages and improves efficiencies in water supply pipe networks.

The Water Loss Management Program, which will shortly cease operations, has saved 5.35 billion litres of water, and is expected to deliver over 5 billion litres in savings per year. The program, which began in 2007, is a joint initiative of the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA) and the NSW Water Directorate, and is partly funded by the Australian Government.

President of the Local Government Association, Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM, said 75 NSW councils have used specialist knowledge and equipment from the Water Loss Management Program.

“NSW councils are committed to working smarter, more efficiently and being environmentally sustainable,” said Cr Rhoades.

“The Water Loss Management Program has helped councils identify ways to make significant savings by measuring night time flows in their supply systems and estimating water losses.”

“Using ongoing financial and technical support from the program, the majority of the councils’ Local Water Utilities have then undertaken projects to pinpoint and reduce water loss in their distribution systems, as well as monitor for potential future losses.”

“Regional towns that have taken part in the program are saving roughly 2.5% of their total water supply - this is truly a remarkable achievement.”

President of the Shires Association of NSW, Cr Ray Donald, said even though funding for the program under the Australian Government’s *Water for the Future* has now ended, the program would still leave a very positive legacy for NSW.

“The Water Loss Management Program has achieved long-lasting and significant benefits for communities around NSW by using existing water supplies more efficiently, and therefore saving considerable amounts of water,” said Cr Donald.

“Despite the funding coming to an end, the environmental and financial benefits achieved by this program will continue to accumulate across NSW every day.”

“We would like to thank the Australian Government for funding this program. The Government’s financial support acts as a great incentive for water utilities to undertake this important work.”

Cr Donald said that even though NSW recently experienced devastating floods, the reality is that many parts of NSW are subject to regular adverse periods of drought.

“Over time, water savings of the magnitude we were able to achieve will help country towns have greater security in times of drought,” said Cr Donald.

“This program has provided a great service for NSW and councils are to be applauded for taking the initiative in what was, at the time, the largest water loss management program in the world.”

For more information on the Water Loss Management Program, visit www.lgsa.com.au

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