

Wednesday, 5 March 2008

NEW GUIDE FOR GREENER PUBLIC SPACES LAUNCHED

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald has today launched a new guide for watering Adelaide's public parks and gardens, designed to save three billion litres of water a year.

"Maintaining our parks, gardens, school ovals and sporting grounds is a challenge because of restrictions necessary during the drought," Minister Maywald said.

"This new guide, called the Code of Practice for Irrigated Public Open Space, will help organisations around South Australia become more efficient and get the most out of the water they are using.

"The code will help us achieve one of the key targets in the Water Proofing Adelaide strategy which is to reduce water use.

"It provides a framework for best practice turf and irrigation management for all public open spaces - areas such as those managed by local government, the education sector and sporting clubs.

"Organisations will record when and where they use their water and, with the help of expert advice, will assess how they can become more efficient.

"The code was developed in consultation with the Irrigation Association of Australia, Local Government Association of SA, Botanic Gardens and sporting associations.

"Significant water savings can be gained from continual monitoring and reporting of performance and adjusting individual irrigation systems to better ensure over-watering does not occur.

"During drought, changing irrigation practices will maximise benefits of available water."

The IPOS Code of Practice will:

- Save water and, as a result, reduce watering costs.
- Increase flexibility for organisations watering public spaces as they are able to get better use out of the water available to them.
- Provide recognition from the State Government of the level of irrigation efficiency.
- Reduce public health and safety issues as grounds become harder because of the drought and restrictions on watering.

Adelaide Oval manager Les Burdett has given his support to the new watering code of practice.

"The drought is affecting everyone in the community and I believe this initiative will help people like me, managing large and significant areas of green space, plan better water practices," Mr Burdett said.

“Well-kept sporting grounds, school ovals and parks are vital to the SA community and our kids.

“SACA will subscribe to the IPOS Code of Practice and I look forward to working with all parties involved in looking after these important public open spaces in any way we can.”