



Save the Murray

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Water Conservation



Water is essential to life on Earth and is part of a continuous hydrological cycle. The actual amount of water on Earth is constant, but less than 1% is fresh water available for humans to use at any one time. The problem now is that we are using it at a faster rate than it can be replenished naturally.

To have a continual supply of fresh, useable river water, we must maintain a healthy river system. There are several things we can do to promote a healthy river, one of which is to reduce the amount of water we take out.

Reasons to save water

- Help the environment – more water “down the Murray” and not “down the drain” will help to ease the saline conditions in the Coorong and have many other environmental benefits.
- Save energy – The water you use in your home is probably highly treated and if it comes from one of the Murray pipelines, it would have been pumped all that way to your house
- Save money – The water you use not only costs you money but you are paying for it indirectly through your taxes. All of the infrastructure needed to supply water has to be paid for somehow!

How do we save water?

Reduce

Use less water through better water use practices e.g. water gardens in the morning, plant native vegetation as it requires less water, turn taps off when not using water, wash clothes only when you have full loads, when purchasing new appliances look for water conservation labeling (the more stars the better). Install tap timers on garden taps to prevent water wastage. Better still, install a sub-surface water efficient irrigation system.

Repair leaks

Fix leaky taps, toilets, hoses etc. Those small drips can add up to many litres a day. Just think, how long that tap has been dripping...?

Re-fit

Change your shower heads to water savers, replace your old cistern with a dual flush toilet (or put a block in the cistern so that it only half flushes). There are Government rebates on many new water saving devices.

Reuse

Install rainwater tanks to collect water for use on the garden and to wash cars and windows. Take a bucket or two into the shower and collect your excess water for use in the garden. Run a hose out of your washing machine to water the garden with your rinse water.

WELS (water efficiency labelling scheme)

WELS water-efficiency ratings can save you money and help the environment. WELS is Australia's new water efficiency labelling scheme, replacing the old AAA rating. The labelling scheme allows consumers to compare the water efficiency of different products.



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Water Conservation Continued

The rating system is similar to the energy rating labelling, with six stars. The more stars the better. As well as a star rating the labels also show a water consumption or water flow figure.

The WELS scheme applies to the following products:

- showers
- tap equipment
- flow controllers
- toilet (lavatory) equipment
- urinal equipment
- clothes washing machines
- dishwashers



What does the WELS label look like?

The labels for the different WELS products also differ slightly, however all share two key pieces of information:

- the star rating
- the water consumption or flow figures.