

## Message from the Managing Director

I have followed with interest the recent public discussion around ACTEW Corporation's Water Security – Major Projects, particularly on how long it will take the Enlarged Cotter Dam to fill after completion. If we consider the range of weather we are likely to experience in the next few years including very dry years like the last six, it is very likely (around 95% chance) the dam will fill in under five years.

To see the science behind our modelling or find out more about the project visit [www.actew.com.au/fillingthecotter](http://www.actew.com.au/fillingthecotter).

Spring has so far delivered some good rainfall, giving our dams a much needed boost. However, unfortunately the rest of the year has been particularly bad in terms of inflows - on par with 2006, the year we cite as "the worst year on record". For this reason, we expect to remain in Stage 3 Water Restrictions for the coming summer.

Whether the spring clean or holiday weekend sprinkler general exemptions are provided again this year is a decision ACTEW will make when we know how storages and consumption have fared for the rest of spring.

Mark Sullivan

## Water Report

Our current combined dam levels are 50.5%, which is slightly lower than at the same time last year when they were 51.6%.

Despite some good recent rainfall and inflows it is likely that Stage 3 Water Restrictions will need to remain in place throughout the coming summer.

During spring our daily water use target under Stage 3 Water Restrictions is 120 ML per day. So far this spring we have been below our target using on average 106 ML per day.



\*1 ML = 1 Megalitre or 1 million litres

## Climate Variability and Change vs. Our Water Supply

Climate variability and climate change have had severe impacts on the ACT region's water supply in recent years. Inflows into our reservoirs have been severely reduced which has caused the need for tough water restrictions throughout the ACT and Queanbeyan since 2002, resulting in significant costs to much of the community.

We can no longer rely on average or 'normal' rainfall in any given year, which is why we need dams to store water in the dry times.

In years past ACTEW was able to plan for our water supply assets using historical climate as a basis for predicting future water demand. However, the hot, dry and extremely variable conditions of recent years have shown that past climate is no longer a reliable indicator of future conditions.

Climate change and variability are now key considerations in ACTEW's planning for our future water supply.



The Cotter landscape

watersecurity  
MAJOR PROJECTS

## Enlarged Cotter Dam Approvals Update

Following the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Enlarged Cotter Dam project, ACTEW has now also received approval of its Development Application.

In addition the project requires assessment by the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. ACTEW has therefore submitted a Public Environment Report, which is currently being reviewed.

save  
water  
for life

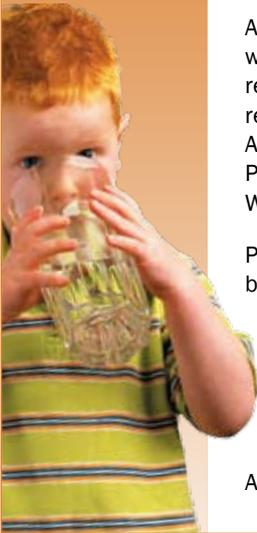
## Community Presentations

**Want to find out more about water restrictions, water saving and what ACTEW is doing to secure the ACT's water supply?**

ACTEW regularly holds free talks with community groups around the region that cover either current water restrictions and water conservation, ACTEW's Water Security – Major Projects or even Waterwise Gardening Workshops.

Presentations can be organised to be held at your venue and can be organised to cater around your time schedule and needs.

To organise an ACTEW representative to attend your next community meeting, call or email ACTEW's Water Conservation Office.



## Top 3 spring water saving tips

- 1** Instead of using water straight from the tap to rinse your recyclables, why not use your post washing up water to instead.
- 2** Make sure all your garden beds are adequately mulched to reduce evaporation as the weather warms.
- 3** Get your garden ready for the hotter months by attending a FREE Waterwise Gardening Workshop to learn about efficient irrigation methods and how to get the best out of your plants and soil.

**For more great ways to save water visit [actew.com.au](http://actew.com.au)**



National  
Water  
Week

18 – 24 October 2009

## Get involved in National Water Week 2009

National Water Week this year will be held from 18 - 24 October. During the week ACTEW will be holding and attending multiple events around the ACT which the community can get involved in to find out more about water conservation, water restrictions and what is being done to secure our region's water supply.

During National Water Week you can find ACTEW at:

- Free Waterwise Gardening Workshops (Thur 22 and Sat 24 Oct - call the Water Conservation Office for bookings)
- Spring Home and Leisure Show, EPIC (Fri 23 - Sun 25 Oct)
- Majura Community Festival, Woolley Street, Dickson (Sat 24 Oct)
- Tours of Grass Roots - the turf and irrigation research project, Rosary Primary School, Higinbotham St, Watson (Sat 24 Oct at 11am and 1pm)

To find what is happening around the nation during National Water Week visit [www.nationalwaterweek.org.au](http://www.nationalwaterweek.org.au).

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### Water Security – Major Projects

Information line: 6248 3563  
[watersecurity@actew.com.au](mailto:watersecurity@actew.com.au)  
[www.actew.com.au](http://www.actew.com.au)

### Water Conservation Measures (e.g. water restrictions)

Information line: 6248 3131  
[waterconservation@actew.com.au](mailto:waterconservation@actew.com.au)  
[www.actew.com.au](http://www.actew.com.au)