



Dominic Perrottet
Treasurer
Minister for Industrial Relations
Don Harwin
Minister for Energy and Utilities

MEDIA RELEASE

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*** [Link to desalination plant footage and images below](#)*

PROTECTING OUR WATER SECURITY: SYDNEY DESALINATION PLANT IS READY FOR ACTION

The Sydney Desalination Plant at Kurnell is expected to be switched on tomorrow following an extended dry spell which has seen water levels drop to 60 percent capacity.

Minister for Water and Utilities, Don Harwin and NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the plant would come into action to protect Sydney's water security unless there was an unexpected break in the drought.

"Under the Metropolitan Water Plan, when dam levels fall below 60 per cent, the Sydney Desalination Plant is switched on to boost supplies," Mr Harwin said.

"Once the plant gets up to full capacity it will supply up to 15 percent of Sydney's water needs, but just as importantly everyone should be mindful of not wasting water in this extended dry spell which is impacting everyone across the state."

Mr Harwin said the Government was working hard to manage Sydney's water supply and also keep downward pressure on water bills.

"Under the NSW Liberals & Nationals, Sydney Water customers now have the lowest water bills of any major city in Australia, compared to the second highest bills in the country under Labor," Mr Harwin said.

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal indicated on 19 December the increase to annual residential water bills in Sydney would be in the order of \$25 to \$35 while the plant was in operation.

Mr Perrottet said the desalination plant had an important part to play in boosting quality water supply to Sydney, but said under the previous Labor government water prices had increased by more than 50 per cent from 2005-06 to 2010-11.

"Their former failed Finance Minister, who now leads the NSW Labor Party, was doing the sums back then and helped push NSW into higher costs. With our better management water bills are now more than \$100 cheaper than they were under Labor."

Managing Director of Sydney Water, Kevin Young, said that there is a lot of things families across Sydney can do to reduce their water use.

“Today’s announcement is a good opportunity for Sydney families to look at how they use water and find out about becoming water wise,” Mr Young said.

“All Sydneysiders can play a part in being water efficient. A small saving by each individual can create a significant water saving if the majority of the 5 million Sydneysiders get involved.

“This is an important message as we deal with the summer heat, particularly in the context of widespread drought.”

To find out ways to save water, visit Sydney Water’s Water Wise page at:

<http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SW/your-home/using-water-wisely/water-wise-tips/index.htm>

For footage and images of the Sydney Desalination Plant click here:

<https://sydneydesal.sharefile.com/d-s577e1730be34731b>

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