



Melinda Pavey
Minister for Water, Property and Housing

MEDIA RELEASE

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RAIN EASES PRESSURE ON LOWER HUNTER'S DAMS

The NSW Government today announced water restrictions in the Lower Hunter would return to Level 1, after recent rain provided a welcome boost to the region's dams.

Minister for Water, Property and Housing Melinda Pavey said Level 1 water restrictions would apply from next Monday 24 February.

"It has been a welcome relief to receive some much-needed rainfall, after months of experiencing severe drought conditions in the Lower Hunter," Mrs Pavey said.

"While local dams haven't made a full recovery, they are in better shape than they were, having lifted 10 per cent to more than 62 per cent capacity in just over a week.

"The Chichester catchment in particular has received decent falls, generating streamflow in the Williams River and causing Chichester Dam to spill.

"Although this is a positive step in our drought recovery, we are not out of the woods yet, which is why it's really important that we all continue to use water wisely and save it wherever we can."

Level 1 water restrictions permit outdoor watering before 10am and after 4pm with a trigger nozzle hose and washing of vehicles with a bucket, trigger nozzle hose or pressure cleaner. Restrictions on sprinkler use and hosing hard surfaces remain in place.

Hunter Water's Acting CEO Graham Wood encouraged the community to continue the great savings made since the introduction of water restrictions.

"Our community has shown us how much they love water by championing our water saving message and leading through action," Mr Wood said.

"Since the start of Level 1 water restrictions, locals have reduced consumption by 20 per cent compared with what we expected given these weather conditions.

"Whether it's by reducing showers to 4 minutes, fixing leaks around the home or waiting for a full load before doing washing, we can all continue to play our part and conserve our precious resource."

For more information on water restrictions, visit www.hunterwater.com.au/restrictions