

## REBATES Q&As

**How do small business rebates support the *Living Melbourne, Living Victoria* policy?**

The Victorian Government’s *Living Melbourne, Living Victoria* policy highlights the need for better management of Victoria’s water resources to positively impact our local environments and the liveability of our urban areas. This includes the need for healthier urban waterways, green spaces, reduced urban heat island effect, and more self-sufficient communities and households. Encouraging Victorian small businesses, along with households, to increase their water efficiency is an excellent way to do this.

**What are the Living Melbourne Water Rebate Program small business rebates?**

The small business rebates are an incentive for small businesses with 20 or less employees to improve the water efficiency of their business.

The small business rebate amount is based on the total expenditure by the business on eligible products and their installation. The small business rebate is based on 50% of expenditure up to a maximum of \$2000.

This means a business may install the number of products needed to best improve the water efficiency of the business rather than just installing a single or limited number of a product type. It also means if the best water savings comes from installing a mix of the eligible products the business may do so.

Rebates are available on a range of products including:

Eligible Product or Service	Eligible Product or Service
Rainwater tanks	Mains connected toilet flush valve
Dual Flush toilets	Water data loggers/ check meter for water management
Pre-rinse nozzles	Flow control devices
Water efficient washing machines	Hot water recirculators
Commercial Glass Washers	Pool covers with roller/reel for covering
Water efficient dishwashers	Automatic rainwater tank to mains water switching systems
Waterless Wok stove	Laundry systems using ozone technology
Commercial high pressure water cleaners	Condensate recovery systems
Waterless or low flow urinals	Hand held rinse sprays – eg. hairdressing
Showerheads	Process water reuse
Showertimers/automatic shutoff valves	Water efficient combi steamers
Permanent Greywater Treatment Systems	

Further details of eligible products are set out in a schedule available on the small business claim form or at [www.water.vic.gov.au](http://www.water.vic.gov.au).

**Who is eligible to claim a small business rebate?**

Rebates are available for small businesses with a current ABN that have 20 or less employees, where the business is connected to an urban reticulated water supply and is charged a non-residential/commercial tariff.

**How can people apply for a small business rebate?**

By purchasing and installing an eligible product(s) listed in the approved schedule of products between 19 July 2011 and 30 June 2013, to improve the water efficiency of their business.

Once the product is installed, the small business can apply to its urban water supplier using the Living Victoria Water Rebate Program small business claim form.

Claim forms are also available from [www.water.vic.gov.au](http://www.water.vic.gov.au), product suppliers, local hardware, plumbing supplier or garden retailer, water suppliers or by calling the Department of Sustainability and Environment on 136 186.

**Why is there a schedule of products?**

As there are many types of small businesses across Victoria, the use of a schedule (a listing) to set out the eligible products allows the rebate program to provide a range of products to assist many types of businesses. The use of a schedule also allows for ongoing review of the program and types of products that are eligible for a rebate.

**Why is there no set rebate amount for each product type?**

The small business rebate amount is based on the total expenditure by the business on eligible products and their installation. The small business rebate is based on 50% of expenditure up to a maximum of \$2000.

**Why do we still need rebates on water efficient products?**

Rebates assist and encourage Victorians to purchase and install more efficient products in their homes. Rebates help Victorians to be more sustainable everyday and to keep water bills down. This is also a great way to reward Victorians for the excellent water savings made already.

**Was this small business program set up by the previous Government?**

No. Small business rebates were not available under the previous rebate scheme. While domestic rebates on water efficient products have been available for some time, the Living Victoria Water Rebate Program provides rebates on more products for households and includes small businesses for the first time.

The Victorian Government is fully committed to rewarding Victorians with incentives to install rainwater tanks and dual flush toilets. We recognise that rainwater tanks play an important role in smart water usage while providing environmental benefits through the capture of storm water.

**What will happen to the rebate program if water restrictions are eased?**

The Victorian Government has committed funding for rebates to both residential and small business customers for the next four years. The initial rebates for this program will remain in place until 30 June 2013, to allow it to be reviewed after two years.

Rebates for water saving products remain an important role in the Government's water policy and it is important that people continue to use water responsibly regardless of the level of water restrictions.