

Preparing for a dry summer

As this edition goes to print, South Gippsland has just come through a particularly dry spring and as such, the Corporation has prepared for the warm, dry conditions to extend into summer.

As a result, for systems that do have access to supplementary water supplies, work has been completed in preparation that these supplies will be needed. This includes testing pumps and bores and analysing raw water quality so that steps can be taken to minimise any noticeable differences in taste or quality for customers.

South Gippsland Water is ready for a dry summer, but customers can also prepare their gardens and change their water use behaviours to help conserve water.

Do you know the permanent water saving rules?

South Gippsland Water would like to encourage all customers to familiarise themselves with the Permanent Water Saving Rules. These are a set of common sense rules that should be followed year round and include;



Watering gardens during the cool: You should only water gardens with a sprinkler system between the hours of 6pm and 10am



Install trigger nozzles on hoses: All garden hoses should have a trigger nozzle and be leak free



Sweep, don't hose: Use a broom to sweep paving and other hard surfaces

You may use a hose to clean buildings and other hard surfaces during the course of construction or renovations, if there is a health or safety hazard or if staining has developed and then only once a year. Use a high pressure water cleaner if available, if not use a bucket or hose and ensure a trigger nozzle is fitted to your hose.

Preparing your garden

Gardens and lawns use a lot of water, however there are things you can do now to reduce your need to water the garden saving both time and money.

- Consider planting drought tolerant plant species. Some lawn grasses are more tolerant to dry conditions than others. There are also many native plant species that will thrive during dry

summers. However, drought tolerant plants are not just natives, there are many Mediterranean plants and plants such as roses that will do well during dry months.

- Mulch; did you know that mulch can cut your garden water use by up to 60%? Mulch helps lock moisture into the ground and insulates the ground from the sun's hot rays. Meaning that you won't need to water as much, or as often.

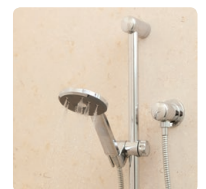


- Installing a new watering system? Install a dripper system and soil moisture sensors. This will help ensure water is not wasted into the atmosphere and gets close to the ground and roots where water is needed. Soil moisture sensors also help to ensure you do not over-water and only water when it's needed.

Preparing your home & family

There are lots of things you can do within the house to save water and a big part of this is changing your mindset around water use and saving water.

- Install a water saving showerhead. Around 30% of household water use is in the shower. A water saving showerhead can help you save 9,000 litres per person per year!



- Limiting showers to only 4 minutes helps too, each minute you save in the shower can save between 9 and 20 litres of water depending on your showerhead. This adds up over a year to a saving of a minimum of 15,000 litres.

- A leaking toilet wastes up to 16,000 litres per year. To check for leaks, put a little food dye into the top of the cistern, don't flush and wait about 15 minutes. If colour appears in the bowl, then you know you have a silent leak and your cistern needs repair.



- Use the plug when rinsing vegetables or dishes (or even better do this in a bucket and tip the greywater onto your garden). A running tap uses between 9 and 20 litres of water per minute

With forecasts for a dry summer ahead, we can all consider how we're using our water and make sure we're abiding by the Permanent Water Saving Rules.

South Gippsland Water have gone Social

South Gippsland Water now has both a Facebook page and Twitter profile. Follow us on social media for updates on projects and any service disruptions.

 South Gippsland Water

 @SthGippsWater

Sign up to receive Accounts by email



South Gippsland Water now offers an eAccount service, where customers can receive their water and sewerage accounts by email. Not only will this help you receive your account quickly, it also saves the environment with less paper and envelopes needed.

To sign up visit www.sgwater.formsport.com.au. You will need to have with you a copy of your water or sewer account and input your name *exactly* as shown on your account. Please also provide your account number and an email address to receive the emailed account.

Water main renewal projects

Over December and January South Gippsland Water is undertaking some major water main renewal projects in Leongatha and Yarram. Both projects are being carried out in advance of council or VicRoads projects which involve new road and footpath surfaces. As a result, South Gippsland Water is replacing ageing sections of pipe. This is a prudent measure in an attempt to avoid needing to excavate these pipes to undertake repairs, following the laying of new road surfaces.

Leongatha

A 200 metre section of ageing pipes are being replaced along the intersection of Strezelecki Highway, South Gippsland Highway and Long Street. Some sections of this pipe are cast iron main that date back as far as 1905, with more recent sections still dating back to 1952.

Yarram

Works commenced in November to replace a 630 metre section of water main along the west side of Commercial Road. This is in advance of the township streetscape works to update the main street of Yarram. Given the water main runs through the main trading



Workers lay the new water main in Commercial Road Yarram

district in town, works have been conducted in short 50 metre sections to minimise disruption to shops and the community.

Update Poowong, Loch & Nyora Sewerage Scheme

Works have continued throughout 2015 on construction and commissioning of sewer infrastructure. At the time of writing, delays for commissioning major pump stations and transfer mains have led to setbacks in commencing property connection works in both Loch & Poowong. However, whilst there have been delays in this aspect of Scheme construction, other aspects of the Scheme have continued;

- *Nyora connections have been ongoing, with over 100 connections now complete.*
- *On site property consultations are still available in all three towns. These consultations are required to identify the location of on-site infrastructure. During these meetings an obligation free plumbing quote can be provided.*

Loch connections are anticipated to commence in December with Poowong to follow shortly after.

Property owners are reminded of key Scheme deadlines:

Mandatory Area: Connection required by 30 June 2016 – after this date the subsidy period ends and property owners will be charged the \$800 Scheme contribution and On Property Infrastructure costs, currently \$9,200*.

Voluntary Area: A commitment to connect by 31 January 2016 and connection complete by 30 June 2016 – after this date the subsidy period ends and the full New Customer Contribution is required, currently \$10,000*.

* On property infrastructure Costs to be charged as the difference between the New Customer Contribution (NCC) rate at the time of connection and the initial \$800 Scheme Contribution. NCC varies annually with CPI and Essential Services Commission pricing determinations.



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Renting? Advise us when you move out

Do you rent?

If so, don't forget to tell us when you move, so that we can arrange for your meter to be read and you don't get stung with the water usage charge from the new tenants.

It is the tenant's responsibility to advise South Gippsland Water when vacating a property.



Call 1300 851 636 and talk to our friendly Customer Service Team at least 2 business days ahead of your vacating date.

FREE Water Efficient Showerhead Program

Around 30% of household water use is in the shower. You can cut that down by installing a free water efficient showerhead. Here's how:

1. **Register:** South Gippsland Water customers can register for a FREE water efficient showerhead, simply call us on 1300 851 636. South Gippsland Water has a limited number of hand held shower heads. Please let our Customer Service Team know if you prefer a handheld or rigid high-low arm showerhead.
2. **Delivery:** We'll deliver to your address for FREE a brand new water efficient showerhead. This may take 4-6 weeks for delivery from the time you register.
3. **Install:** Simply follow the instructions provided with the showerhead.