



MEDIA RELEASE

WATER AUTHORITY

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COUNCILS HELP SCHOOLS TO SAVE MORE WATER

Gosford and Wyong Councils are providing free rainwater tanks and other water saving programs to local schools.

The programs are designed to help save more water around schools and to help teach students more ways to save water in their daily activities.

Gosford recently launched a new scheme to provide 10 schools a year with a \$5,000 grant each to spend on specific water saving projects. The new 'Water Savings in Schools' program follows the pilot 'Rainwater Tanks in Schools' scheme which ran last year.

Seven schools had rainwater tanks or smart water meters installed by Gosford Council during the trial program. The Council is now working with local schools to help finalise their project applications.

Wyong Council is meanwhile providing free 10,000 litre rainwater tanks under its Rainwater Tank Schools program. Since its inception in 2002 the scheme has provided and installed 15 free rainwater tanks in local primary and high schools around the Shire.

Some schools have subsequently reduced their town water use by as much as 40,000 litres a year.

Gosford Mayor Laurie Maher said many schools were keen to help reduce their water use and were pleased that their Councils were helping them out.

"Gosford area schools have an option to install a 10,000 litre rainwater tank, waterless urinals, or smart water meters which provide regular monitoring of water usage and immediate alerts when a leak is detected.

"These can provide real water saving outcomes for our schools, while also educating our students on the need for water conservation.

"During the current long term drought this is an extremely important message for our younger community members to learn."

Wyong Mayor Bob Graham said a similar scheme operates in Wyong Shire and he encouraged more schools to come forward and take advantage.

"By giving away free rainwater tanks we are encouraging schools to use less water from the town supply," he said.

"It also helps to educate people about other water saving practices by ensuring they are a 'Water Wise' with water saving policies.

“When you get out there and talk to the children, they are really enthusiastic about doing as much as they can to save water.

“Many take this information home and then help to further educate their siblings and parents.”

Schools keen to be part of the programs should contact their local council for application forms.

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