

Attn: Chief of Staff; News Editor; News Producer

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For immediate release

Media Release

HOUSEHOLDERS URGED TO RESTRICT WATER USE DURING TOTAL FIRE BAN PERIOD

Southern Water has appealed to its customers in southern Tasmania to restrict all non-essential water use while the total fire ban is in place to ensure enough water is available for fighting fires and protecting properties during the current high fire danger period.

Southern Water's Executive Manager Service Delivery, Mr Ian Dunbabin, said garden sprinklers should not be turned on whenever a total fire ban was in force and the use of garden hoses should be kept to a minimum. Residents also were encouraged to reduce their general household water consumption by using a bucket instead of a hose to wash vehicles and for any external cleaning of windows and driveways.

"We need to ensure that water reservoirs remain as full as possible to assist firefighters in protecting any properties threatened by fire," he said. "I urge all householders to act responsibly and minimise their water use while the total fire ban is in place.

"It is in the interests of the whole community to conserve as much water as possible during this high fire danger period. Householders who ignore the warning could be putting the safety of their own property – and that of their friends and neighbours - at risk."

Mr Dunbabin said the water corporation would continue to work closely with the Tasmania Fire Service and other emergency services involved in protecting the community from fire.

He said if customers had any queries about domestic water use during days of total fire ban they should contact the Southern Water customer service team on 13MYWATER (13 6992).

For further information contact Errin Price on 0417 056 806