

Attn: Chief of Staff; News Editor; News Producer

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For immediate release

Media Release

SOUTHERN WATER BANS USE OF WATER SPRINKLERS DURING FIRE DANGER PERIOD

In line with the total fire ban imposed by the State Fire Commission, Southern Water is maintaining the temporary ban on the use of water sprinklers for residents in southern Tasmania until midnight tonight.

The ban applies to the municipalities of Brighton, Central Highlands, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands and Tasman. It has been imposed to ensure enough water is available for fighting fires and protecting properties during the current high fire danger period.

Southern Water's Acting CEO, Mr Russell Fox, said the use of sprinklers was prohibited whenever a total fire ban was in force. Residents also were encouraged to minimise 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 observe the restrictions we've put in place."

Mr Fox said the ban applied to the use of both fixed and mobile sprinklers, as well as automatic and manually timed systems including micro-sprays and drip systems. He said hand held hoses could be used for fire prevention and mitigation purposes.

"We appeal to all residents in the affected area to observe the ban and conserve as much water as possible during this high fire danger period. Householders who flout the ban could be putting the safety of their own property – and that of their friends and neighbours - at risk."

Mr Fox 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 people had any queries about the ban they should contact the Customer Call Centre on 136992.

For further information contact Sophie Shelswell-White 0457 300 855