

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY ENDORSED

18 June 2009

The drought management strategy for securing Oberon and Lithgow water supplies will continue to be followed after the Fish River Customer Council met this month.

State Water Corporation CEO George Warne attended the meeting on Tuesday, 9 June 2009 and said the Customer Council's existing drought management strategy was assessed by State Water staff and by an independent reviewer as being sound.

"The drought management strategy developed by the Customer Council considers a number of measures to reduce usage from Oberon Dam and to ensure the supply of water to the Lithgow and Oberon Villages," Mr Warne said.

"The plan will continue to be adhered to as we head into the traditionally wetter winter months.

"Each of the customer council members is implementing water saving measures and other actions have been or are being implemented as directed by the plan."

Back feeding of Lithgow City Council's filtered water sourced from Farmers Creek Dam and the existing Clarence Colliery transfer system into Fish River Water Supply pipelines to deliver water to Marrangaroo is one of the measures now being undertaken.

"The strategy also included the measure to connect remaining Lithgow Villages of Portland, Wallerawang, Cullen Bullen and Glen Davis to the alternate town water supply which will now be funded by the NSW Government, meaning implementation can be fast-tracked."

"We are also increasing the amount of water used from Duckmaloi Weir to reduce the daily use from Oberon Dam," Mr Warne said.

If the drought continues to limit inflows into Oberon Dam the FRCC will meet on a more frequent basis to assess the water supply situation and to consider options to best maintain industrial and commercial customers' supplies for as long as sensibly possible.

State Water will continue to take the necessary measures to ensure supply of high-quality drinking water to the Lithgow and Oberon communities.

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