

## Media release

## The Hon Peter Walsh MP Minister for Agriculture and Food Security Minister for Water

Tuesday 19 July 2011

## **Coalition extends water rebates to small businesses**

Small businesses will be eligible for new rebates on water efficient products for the first time under a Victorian Coalition Government plan to help reduce potable water usage, Minister for Water Peter Walsh said today.

Mr Walsh said the Coalition Government was delivering on its election commitment to invest \$40 million in rebates on water efficient products for homes, gardens and now small businesses.

"Water bills are soaring thanks to the Brumby Labor Government's waste and incompetence, but these rebates will help small businesses and households make savings," Mr Walsh said.

"Victoria's water storages are filling after recent rains but people need to continue their efforts to be water efficient and this is one way that we can make the most of every drop.

"For the first time small businesses with 20 or less employees are eligible to receive rebates of up to \$2000 on a range of water-efficient products.

"Rebates are now available for items such as commercial glass washers, dishwashers and washing machines, high pressure cleaners and dual flush toilets," Mr Walsh said.

"The range of products available will encourage more small businesses, including restaurants, laundromats and car washes, to become water efficient.

"Over the next year, the program is expected to provide up to 5000 rebates for small businesses and up to 30,000 home and garden rebates."

A rebate can be claimed for 50 per cent of the cost up to a maximum rebate amount of \$2000 on eligible products purchased.

Today's announcement follows an extension of the rebate program for households including those not connected to mains water on products including water efficient washing machines and pool covers.

For more information about the program and products eligible for a rebate visit <u>www.water.vic.gov.au/rebates</u>.

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