

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW GOVERNMENT \$49,300 GRANT TO HELP THE EASTERN SUBURBS BE MORE WATER WISE

4 August 2009

The NSW Government is providing more than \$49,000 to Randwick Council to help boost the water wise message in the eastern suburbs, NSW Minister for Water, Phil Costa announced today.

Minister Costa made the announcement during a visit to Randwick as part of the NSW Government's Community Cabinet meeting held today.

"This is a \$49,300 investment into helping the eastern suburbs be more water wise and preserve our precious drinking water," Mr Costa said.

"It will provide funding for Randwick Council to construct an interactive, water wise education trail at its community centre, for local schools and residents to learn how to use water wisely."

The Member for Coogee, Paul Pearce said the funding was great news for the local area and would go to constructing six individual and permanent interactive water education displays to form an educational trail.

"Education plays a big role in encouraging people to save water, and this education program will show people how they can make a difference in their homes and schools," Mr Pearce said.

"Great news for local schools and community groups who can visit the trail and use the program as part of their curriculum."

Randwick Council Acting Mayor Councillor Margaret Woodsmith welcomed the funding, saying the new trail will add value to other education programs and initiatives at its community centre.

"Randwick's Water Wise education trail will provide a great opportunity for our local school and residents to learn about water conservation," Councillor Woodsmith said.

Mr Costa said the funding is part of nearly \$300,000 in NSW Government grants for projects aimed at encouraging water wise use across Sydney.

"Water users in greater Sydney have already shown tremendous support for water efficient practices, and we are using about the same amount of water now as we did in the early 1970s, despite an extra 1.3 million people," Mr Costa said.

"And with Water Wise Rules now in place, the Water for Life education program is set to play an integral role in the Government's plan to secure greater Sydney's long-term water supply.

"Recycled water will soon meet around 12 per cent of Sydney's water needs while the desalination plant coming online this summer can provide up to 15 per cent of water supply."

For more information on the NSW Government's Water for Life Education Program visit www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au

Media contact: Claire March 0403 937 849