NSW Government water saving measures leave North Coast flushed with success

New figures released by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure today show water consumption in many North Coast homes has halved since water saving measures were introduced by the NSW Government.

A report by Rous Water found an average 48.6 per cent drop in water usage across new homes in the Ballina, Byron, Lismore and Richmond Valley council areas which have implemented water reduction measures under the department’s Building Sustainability Index (BASIX).

Under the BASIX scheme, new homes must incorporate sustainability measures to enable a 40 per cent reduction in water and energy usage.

The Rous Water study is one of a number of BASIX water monitoring studies, including by Sydney Water and Hunter Water, to monitor and verify water usage against BASIX targets.

The department’s ePlanning Director John Hudson said the BASIX target for water reduction was being achieved in 63 per cent of homes analysed in the region.

“This report shows the Government’s sustainability measures are working, and working well,” Mr Hudson said.

“Not only are most new homes on the North Coast achieving these targets, but many are well and truly exceeding them.

“To halve the water use in a home compared to before these measures were introduced is a great effort and one that underlines the sustainability credentials of the North Coast region.”

Analysing actual water consumption data from 597 homes across the region gathered between July 2006 and June 2011, Rous Water found:

- An average water usage of 150kL/dwelling/year – well down on the pre-BASIX State benchmark.
- An average reduction in annual household water usage of 48.6 per cent compared to the average pre-BASIX home.
- An average of 63 per cent of new homes with BASIX measures installed were able to meet or exceed their BASIX target of a 40 per cent reduction.

The Rous Water study also shows that future new houses on the North Coast have capacity for further water savings.

Mr Hudson said while the results were encouraging across the region, Ballina showed particularly strong results with:

- An average consumption rate of just 146kL/dwelling/year – below the region average of 150.
• Average water savings of 55 per cent – above the region average of 49 per cent.
• 67 per cent of households achieving their 40 per cent BASIX reduction target – above the region average of 63 per cent.

For further information on BASIX and to view the Rous Water report, visit www.basix.nsw.gov.au/basixcms

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