

## OBERON DAM DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ON TRACK

03 April 2009

The Fish River Customer Council announced today that the drought management strategies developed and implemented by the Customer Council to ensure highest priority for people's drinking water are on track. The Customer Council met on 20 March 2009 to review the water supply situation at its regular drought management meeting.

The Customer Council is comprised of local government representatives from Oberon and Lithgow councils, along with Delta Electricity, the Sydney Catchment Authority and State Water.

State Water's Water Delivery Manager for Fish River, Sri Sritharan said providing drinking water to the community remains top priority in the Customer Council's drought management strategy.

"We want to reassure the communities of both Oberon and Lithgow that the drought management strategies developed and implemented by the Customer Council ensure highest priority for people's drinking water and is on track. The focus for the Customer Council is to extend the delivery of town water supplies as long as possible.

"Town water supplies will have priority during the current drought and be delivered first before other water user needs are met.

"With Oberon Dam at 13.7% capacity, the Customer Council considered a worst case scenario of no rainfall in the Oberon catchment in autumn and the measures required to maintain the Oberon Dam above 8% going into winter months in order for the dam to recover with rainfall and inflows. In the last 3 years of drought, inflows to Oberon Dam for the months between June and September have averaged about 3,000 mega litres which is equivalent to 7% rise in Oberon Dam.

The Customer Council has also endorsed the drought contingency measure of back feeding 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 Lithgow villages of Portland, Wallerawang, Cullen Bullen and Glen Davis. Implementation of this project will reduce the demand on Oberon Dam if the drought continues and secure water supplies to Lithgow villages as well as Oberon town.

Both SCA and Delta Electricity have other sources of supplies and have been scaling back their reliance on Fish River Water Supply as the storage level at Oberon Dam continues to fall. SCA has not taken any water from FRWS since Nov 2008.

**-ENDS-**

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