



## MEDIA RELEASE

### ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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17 October 2006

#### Make Water Week the week to learn more about where Adelaide's water comes from at the click of a button

The Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) Watershed Protection Office has developed a suite of online tools to help educate the public, particularly teachers and students, about where Adelaide's water comes from.

All South Australian's can learn about important water quality issues in the Mount Lofty Ranges Watershed online at [www.epa.sa.gov.au/watershed](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/watershed)

Leader Communications and Engagement Officer Vanessa Geerts said the website outlined facts about the Mount Lofty Ranges watershed, which is a physical feature of the Ranges and a major water catchment area.

"The watershed covers the area from Myponga to Williamstown, captures rainfall and run-off water, and channels it through rivers and creeks into reservoirs," Vanessa said.

"Most South Australians rely on water from the watershed, which supplies 60 per cent of Adelaide's water in an average year, as well as water for the greater Adelaide region, including the Fleurieu Peninsula".

"It is important that everyone understands that the majority of their water is sourced from the watershed, whereas only 40 per cent comes from the River Murray."

One school that is using the website as an information resource and education tool is Mount Barker Primary School. Principal Mark Ireland said students had conducted many water-related studies recently.

"Mount Barker Primary students have been involved in a number of initiatives looking at water quality issues and the many pollution issues that exist," he said.

Mr Ireland said Mt Barker Primary School encouraged students to learn about water quality issues from a variety of angles, both inside and outside the classroom and the EPA's Watershed Protection Office website was a valuable resource for information.

He believes that while it is particularly important for local students to understand how their actions can impact on Adelaide's drinking water supply, it is essential for all South Australian school students to learn about water quality issues in general.

"Adelaide is part of the driest state in the driest continent in the world and we need to have young people who appreciate what that means even when they live in the part of the State with the highest rainfall," he said.

**For more information visit [www.epa.sa.gov.au/watershed](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/watershed)**