

## The value of water

The clean drinking water that runs from your tap has travelled a long way from our dams and catchment areas to your home.

The **Water Cycle Diagram** (left) shows the journey of water from the dam to your tap and can help to explain why we pay for water.

The cost of water includes taking water from the dam and purifying that water. Electricity is required to pump this precious resource through kilometres of pipelines right to your home.

We also pay to remove wastewater from our homes in the way of sewage. Sewage includes everything that goes down the kitchen, laundry and bathroom sinks, as well as what you flush down the toilet.

Most of the sewage from our homes and businesses flows through large underground sewer pipes to wastewater treatment plants, where it is treated for safe release back into the environment.

## Saving water in and around the home

How much water is used each time?

**Dishwasher**

20 – 90L

**Shower**

40 – 250L

**Washing machine**

40 – 265L

**Bath**

50 – 150L

**Washing car with hose**

100 – 300L

**Garden sprinkler**

Up to 1500L per hour

Five ways to minimise water use inside the home:

- 1 Use water efficient appliances, showers, toilets and taps.
- 2 Reduce your shower time.
- 3 Do full loads of washing or adjust the water level on your machine.
- 4 Rinse dishes in a plugged sink and only run full loads in the dishwasher.
- 5 Use the half-flush button on your toilet.

Five ways to save water outside the house:

- A Water your grass no more than twice a week when the weather is dry and never when it's raining.
- B Use a water efficient sprinkler and save 900L per hour.
- C Wash your car or bike on the lawn and water the grass at the same time.
- D Plant local native plants – they're better adapted to our climate and need less watering.
- E Add compost to your lawn or leave grass clippings behind – it helps your soil to soak up more water and hold it for longer.

