

## **FAQs New Rainwater Tank Rebate From 1 January 2007**

### **Is there a \$1000 rebate for the purchase and installation of rainwater tanks?**

As part of its 2006 election promises, the Government has committed to introducing new rebates for the purchase and installation of rainwater tanks connected to the toilet and/or laundry to help householders connected to a reticulated water system to reduce their water use.

The new rebates, which are part of the Water Smart Gardens and Homes rebates scheme, commenced on 1 January 2007. There are three new rebates on offer:

- A rebate of \$500 for rainwater tanks with a capacity between 2,000-4,999 litres connected to the toilet and/or laundry
- A rebate of \$900 for rainwater tanks with a capacity greater than 5,000 litres connected to the toilet **or** laundry
- A rebate of \$1000 for rainwater tanks with a capacity greater than 5,000 litres connected to the toilet **and** laundry

### **Is there a rebate if I purchase a rainwater tank less than 2,000 litres in size?**

The existing \$150 rebate under the Water Smart Gardens and Homes rebate scheme will continue to be available for 600 litre or greater rainwater tanks purchased and installed by a licensed plumber.

### **What if I buy a rainwater tank greater than 2,000 litres but only use it for my garden and do not have it plumbed to the house?**

You will be eligible for the existing \$150 rebate under the Water Smart Gardens and Homes Rebate Scheme provided you are connected to reticulated (mains) water. Please refer to the terms and conditions to determine whether you are eligible.

### **Do I have to be connected to a reticulated water supply to be eligible for the rainwater tank rebate?**

Yes. The rebate aims to help householders connected to a reticulated water supply to reduce the demand on public water supplies.

As a separate initiative the Government has provided assistance to pay for large tanks in drought-affected rural areas like the Wimmera.

### **When will the rebate be available?**

The new large tank (including toilet and / or laundry connection) rebates will be available for tanks purchased and installed on or after 1 January 2007.

## **How do I claim the rebate?**

By applying to your water supplier via an application form that can be sent out to you.

The form is available on the *Our Water Our Future* website [www.ourwater.vic.gov.au](http://www.ourwater.vic.gov.au) from your local hardware, plumbing supplies or garden retailer or from your local water authority's website.

Customers will have a choice of receiving the new tank rebates as a credit on their water bill, a cheque or a one-off Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

Rebates under the existing scheme will continue to be paid as a credit on your next water bill.

## **How long will it take to get my tank rebate?**

The rebates will be processed within 10-12 weeks.

## **If I've ordered my tank in December but it doesn't arrive until January, am I still eligible?**

The rebate is available to people who purchase and install a tank on or after 1 January 2007.

If you have not yet paid for your tank, you should consult your local water authority to determine whether you are eligible for the rebate.

## **If I get six 1,000 litre tanks and connect them all to the toilet and laundry, do I get the \$1,000 rebate?**

Yes. As long as the total capacity is greater than 5000 litres for the \$1,000 rebate and 2,000-4,999 litres for the \$500 rebate, you are eligible.

This gives people greater flexibility to choose tanks that suit their situation and the size of their backyards.

## **Can I connect the tank to the toilet/laundry myself?**

No. You must use a licensed plumber. You will be asked to provide the original tank receipt, plumber's receipt or Plumbing Industry Certificate with your rebate application form.

## **Can I get plumbing costs reimbursed?**

The rebate is to help with the costs of both purchasing and installing the tank and having it connected to your toilet and/or laundry by a licensed plumber.

### **How many rebates can I claim?**

You can claim one each of the 'core product' rebates over the life of the program, for each eligible property that receives a water bill. 'Core products' include rainwater tanks, rainwater tank to toilet connection, large rainwater tank (including toilet and/or laundry connection), greywater systems, dual flush toilets and other water saving products that attract a rebate under the Water Smart Gardens and Homes scheme.

### **I've already claimed a rebate for a tank. Do I qualify for the increased rebates?**

The new large tank rebate is a separate core offer. As long as you meet all of the terms and conditions for the large tank rebates you are eligible.

### **I have already installed a 5,000 litre rainwater tank and received a \$150 rebate. Can I now apply for the difference up to \$900 or \$1,000?**

No, the program is not retrospective. The large tank (including toilet and / or laundry connection) rebate is for tanks purchased and installed on or after 1 January 2007.

### **Has the rebate for a water conservation audit increased?**

Yes. As part of the Government's recent election commitments the rebate for the water conservation audit has increased from \$30 to \$50. This is effective immediately.

### **Can I claim the tank rebate for a newly built house?**

No. The tank rebates are not available to new houses that received a building permit after 30 June 2005.

### **If I receive a rebate to install a rainwater tank, will I be charged a water supply fee?**

No. The Government has no plans to introduce a water supply fee.

Where a planning permit is required from your local Council, there may be a fee associated with obtaining this permit. Please contact your local Council to find out whether this is the case.