



# I Care for water

The ACT and Queanbeyan have had Permanent Water Conservation Measures in place since 2010. These common sense rules give us the flexibility to use water when we need to, but make sure water wastage (like hosing down driveways) is not permitted. They provide guidance on garden and lawn watering, pool filling, cleaning with water and other applicable uses.

Care for Water is Icon Water's water saving campaign, reminding the ACT and Queanbeyan communities about what we all need to do to save water.

Water conservation is an important message for our community and our children. As dry conditions continue across Australia, we are asking our community to look at what we can all do at home, school and work to conserve water.

An important part of the campaign is an education program. It provides teachers with tools and activities to help children make their own water saving promises while learning how to use water wisely and where their water comes from.

## How can your school get involved?

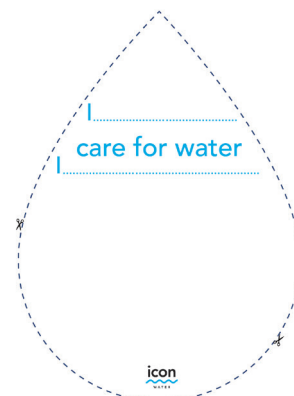
ACT and Queanbeyan schools can get involved in water conservation and learn all about their local water supply and come up with practical actions to save water.

Educators can encourage children to learn all about the catchments that supply our drinking water; to learn the names of supply dams, and how much water is currently in them, and find out how water comes to your taps at home and school.

For updates to ACT water storages visit [iconwater.com.au/My-Home/Saving-Water](http://iconwater.com.au/My-Home/Saving-Water)

Brainstorm with your children all the different ways you use water on a daily basis and come up with practical ways to save water around your homes and at school. Visit [iconwater.com.au/My-Home/Saving-Water](http://iconwater.com.au/My-Home/Saving-Water) for tips.

Ask each child what they do to help save water around their house and at school and put an action plan in place. Encourage them to take the promise back home.





## Activities

### 1. Make a water-saving commitment as a class or year level

Download the Care for Water banner for your classroom and printable water drop promises from [iconwater.com.au/Water-education/Schools-Education-Programs](http://iconwater.com.au/Water-education/Schools-Education-Programs).

Ask students to fill in their own water drop promises. They can colour in their drop or draw a picture. Display a *Care for Water* banner along with your promises to share the messages with the rest of your school

You can share photos of the promises with us at [education@iconwater.com.au](mailto:education@iconwater.com.au). We would love to share them or post the best tips on Facebook and tag @iconwaterCBR.



Our water saving pledges to *Care for water*

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## 2. Building Water Wise Early Learners

### How you can help your children to care for water

Caring for water starts at home and at our school sites. Learning how to use water resources responsibly is one way a child can help to establish their place in the community. As dry conditions continue, we have a great opportunity to start a conversation about how we use water, and model responsible water use for the next generation.

If there's a young person in your life who takes long showers, leaves the tap running or tips their drink bottle down the sink instead of on the garden, the following ideas can be implemented into your classroom

### Water wise tips for school sites

- Encourage refillable water bottles for sipping in class. Empty any unused water on plants or gardens not in the sink.
- Collect the water used to wash fruit and vegetables and reuse it on the garden.
- For art rooms and painting lessons, use a bucket of water to clean paintbrushes rather than a running tap. Remember to put this on to the garden or lawn and never down the sink.
- Conduct a basic water audit – become leak detectors to catch and stop those leaking drippy taps.
- Place posters or water saving reminders at water-use areas and taps to encourage water saving behaviours.
- Have containers or buckets to catch the drinking bubbler water drops. Create a classroom watering

roster and encourage students to tip the buckets on the garden when full.

- Teach effective handwashing practises and encourage children to turn off the tap while lathering their hands
- Install dual flush toilets (and encourage children to use the half flush).
- Ensure you are only using your site staff room dishwasher and washing machine with full loads.
- Wash toys in the full loaded dishwasher.
- Create water wise gardens at school. Use the Actsmart water wise plant selector to help ensure the plants in your garden are water wise for your local area.
- Apply mulch to reduce evaporation on school and home gardens and your veggie patch.
- Only use sprinklers to water school grounds and home gardens before 9am and after 6pm. Reduce sprinkler times by two minutes per station.
- Install a rainwater tank to use for water play.

