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Media Release

TasWater reminds customers to conserve water on Total Fire Ban days

TasWater is reminding customers to avoid non-essential water use during a Total Fire Ban declared for most of the south and east of the state on Sunday.

“Tasmania has just recorded it’s driest January on record so it’s important we all make the effort to ensure there is water for firefighting, as well as ongoing daily use,” TasWater’s Mark McConnon said.

“We have seen some customers go without water for a period during the current bushfire incident which really shows how critical it is to conserve water for times of need.

“Bushfires are unpredictable and could start anywhere so even if you are not currently affected by fires, water may be needed in your area at a moment’s notice.”

During a Total Fire Ban, activities such as washing your car and watering gardens and lawns should be delayed to a day that isn’t a Total Fire Ban.

In areas where fire is a threat, residents preparing their properties may notice lower water pressure due to extra demand. TasWater is monitoring its systems both remotely and on the ground when safe to do so but cannot improve pressure if water is being used faster than it can be pumped.

Tasmania Fire Services recommends an alternative water supply as part of personal bushfire plans.

“Please follow all advice from the Tasmania Fire Service about property and personal safety,” Mr McConnon said.

Anyone evacuating their homes should turn off taps or hoses before leaving to ensure water is available to firefighters and neighbours protecting their homes.

On total fire ban days, Tasmanians are encouraged to reduce their water use by:

- Turning off all sprinkler systems, including automatic sprinkler systems.
- Where possible, restricting hose use to essential purposes such as firefighting or prevention.
- Rescheduling chores that require water, such as watering plants, washing windows or vehicles, to a day that isn’t a Total Fire Ban.

ENDS