

## Media Release

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### Water Saving Key Topic for Fire Protection

The negative ecological impact of fire is well known, however it was fire protection methods themselves that were the hot topic at today's Fire Australia 2007 conference and exhibition, themed "*Fire Protection and the Environment – Planning a Sustainable Future*"

Water has traditionally been regarded as an effective and affordable fire extinguishing medium, yet the days of unlimited water use are now over. While the government and industry are currently developing solutions to the water crisis, the fire industry is also about to change the way they utilise water forever.

Several conference speakers today announced that under the AS1851-2005 maintenance standard, the fire protection industry now has the potential to **significantly reduce annual water usage from fire system testing**.

Points made during a talk by Roger Thomas, Technical Manager, Wormald on "*Fire Protection and the Future Use of Water*" include:

- **It has been calculated that 75% of the water consumed in the testing of fire sprinklers could be saved by the adoption of this new standard.**
- **Measures to save water under the new standard include testing sprinkler systems monthly instead of weekly and the reduction of water flow for testing.**
- **Trials of a "Catch & Cart" system have been successfully undertaken. This involves collecting fire hose flow meter output into mobile tanks, and transferring the test water to a reuse facility such as a local council.**
- **The final goal of the water saving strategy is the development of permanent, sustainable, water reuse options. These options require the installation of water re-cycling facilities, but have the potential to increase water savings up to 90%.**

Interviews with speakers at the Fire Australia 2007 conference are available on request.

*The Fire Protection Association Australia is the country's peak body for fire safety, providing information, services and training to the fire protection industry and broader community. For more information, please see [www.fpaa.com.au](http://www.fpaa.com.au) or contact FPA Australia – (03) 9890 1544.*

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