

DO SOMETHING!

EMBARGOED TILL FRIDAY JANUARY 21

Major Australian university bans bottled water across entire campus

**Ban will stop the sale of 140,000 bottles of water p/a
- other universities encouraged to copy the ban**

The University of Canberra is banning bottled water across its entire campus. It is the first Australian University to do so and it's the biggest ban of its kind to date.

Initiated by students and assisted by the action group Do Something!, the ban will be phased in across all cafes, restaurants, retail outlets, vending machines and University run events. The ban will stop the sale of 140,000 bottles of water every year.

As a result of the ban, the University's 13,000 students and staff will save money and the environment. They'll also have access to a wider choice of drinking water facilities.

Students will be able to drink FREE water from the same SFA water bubblers that were installed in Bundanoon NSW. These bubblers have been installed around the campus.

The University will also be the first organisation in Australia to install the new 'WaterVend' machine. This hi-tech vending unit dispenses filtered and 'flash-chilled' still and sparkling water (and other water-based drinks) into the customer's own refillable bottle. This move gives students a chilled water alternative to bottled water.

"The WaterVend provides a far cheaper mains water alternative to bottled water in campus outlets," said Jon Dee, the Founder of Do Something!. "Instead of paying \$2.50 to \$3 for bottled water, the students will only have to pay \$1 for a chilled water refill. With sparkling water, instead of paying \$3.50, they will only have to pay \$1.50."

"By supplying free water and cheap chilled water, the University will be helping students to break a bottled water habit that's costing Australians half a billion dollars a year." said Dee. "The University of Canberra has created a wonderful role model here - our GoTap.com.au campaign will assist any Universities who want to create a similar ban."

The 'WaterVend' refill machine will also provide the University's retail outlets with a commercial income to offset the income lost from bottled water sales.

In another revenue replacement move, retailers will also sell a cheap locally made 'BPA-free' plastic refillable bottle as well as the well known SIGG aluminium bottles - the biggest selling refillable bottles in the world.

Sales of bottled water will totally cease by World Water Day on 22 March 2011.

Jon Dee is available for interview from 6am via 0414 971 900

For more info on Do Something!, visit DoSomething.net.au

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Bottled Water Facts and Stats

- In Australia 528.9 million litres of bottled water is purchased every year¹.
- An estimated billion litres of water is used to produce this amount of bottled water² (it takes 1.3³ to 3 litres⁴ of water to produce every litre of bottled water).
- A \$2.50 bottle of water (600ml size) could be refilled with tap water once a day every day for 5 years for the same \$2.50. That's the price difference between tap water and bottled water.
- The PACIA National Plastics Recycling Survey estimates that only 43.1% of PET plastic bottles are recycled.⁵ The rest of the bottles end up as litter or landfill.
- The NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water has estimated that 200ml of oil is used to produce 1 litre of bottled water.
- That's equivalent to 105.7 million litres of oil being used in the lifecycle production of Australia's bottled water every year.
- The production of bottled water sold in Australia results in an estimated 126,000 tonnes of Greenhouse gas emissions every year⁶. Drinking tap water instead reduces this impact significantly.
- Over 85% of Australians surveyed said they did not believe bottled water should cost as much as petrol.⁷ A lot of bottled water is twice the price of petrol.
- Over 78% percent of people believe there are not enough bubblers available to the public. 66% said that if greater number of bubblers were available, they would buy less bottled water.⁸

¹ IBISWorld Bottled Water Manufacturing in Australia, January 2010

² Do Something! 'Go Tap' campaign <http://www.GoTap.com.au>

³ <http://www.mountfranklinwater.com.au/faqs.aspx>

⁴ Pacific research institute: http://www.pacinst.org/topics/water_and_sustainability/bottled_water/bottled_water_and_energy.html

⁵ 2008/2009 PACIA: National Plastics Recycling Survey, 2009 <http://www.pacia.org.au/Content/PlasticsRecyclingSurvey.aspx>

⁶ Extrapolated from the following Govt figures <http://www.livingthing.net.au/Go/Default.aspx?tabid=783>

⁷ Do Something! 'Go Tap!' research: <http://www.gotap.com.au/en/Did%20you%20know/Research.aspx>

⁸ Do Something! 'Go Tap!' research: <http://www.gotap.com.au/en/Did%20you%20know/Research.aspx>