"A drop in the bucket" is how Loraine Braham, Independent Member for Braitling, describes the Government's announcement of a $50 rebate for water saving devices.

"If the Government is serious about encouraging water conservation, they would do what every State Government and the ACT has done and introduce a rebate for a rainwater tank".

Mrs Braham said that 16% of Australian homes now have rainwater tanks and in some jurisdictions it is mandatory for new houses to have a tank.

"Alice Springs uses more water per head than any other place in Australia", said Mrs Braham. "Surely that is reason enough to encourage residents to collect what little rainwater we receive".

"Think of the thousands of litres that could have been stored from the recent rains".

"$50 is nothing compared to the rebates of hundreds of dollars offered interstate for installing a tank".

The Environment Minister said the government's approach was to be innovative in managing the environment and to educate the community in how to conserve water.

"If this is the case Minister, then get serious, get tanked, and get us a rebate".

Mrs Braham said that some people say the cost of a tank with installation is uneconomical to the user in the long run. "We should be thinking long-term rather than aiming to save a few dollars now. The benefits to our community - and the government - should also be a priority".

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