

# Tanks bring flood of savings



**WATERWISE:** Dr Anne Jensen has a drink from her rainwater tank yesterday.

Picture: DEAN MARTIN

RAINWATER tanks make a big difference to household water use and environmental scientist Dr Anne Jensen has the figures to prove it.

She has cut mains water use at home by more than 75 per cent by putting in a 10,000L tank and re-using water from the shower and laundry.

Dr Jensen said she wanted to give evi-

dence to the water industry that rainwater could be a major domestic water source for Adelaide. Her chart of mains water use appears in lectures and presentations.

"If households are willing to pay to install rainwater tanks, they can increase their own water security with good quality water for showering, laundry and garden, while having a

real benefit in reducing their need for water from the mains," she said. "That means reducing the pressure on the River Murray and on the Mount Lofty catchments."

Even if households cut their mains water use by half, it would make a big difference, Dr Jensen said. "Individuals really do make a difference when they start to seriously use

rainwater," she said. The household of two adults, with a suburban garden, runs off tank water for 6-8 months a year, even in drought. Soon it will be completely self-sufficient. Dr Jensen has ordered two more tanks, each 5000L.

"Our garden looks healthy and has survived last summer's heatwaves well," Dr Jensen said.