

DROUGHT RESPONSE PRIORITISATION RATIONALE



Reduce residential and business demand to prolong the water supply

High level considerations are:

1. Lower levels of water restrictions aim to educate and create awareness of the current water supply situation. Promoting behavioural change in terms of water usage across the community.
2. Higher levels of water restrictions aims to result in significant reduction of residential and commercial/ institutional water as a result of the change of behaviours learnt from the lower levels. Continued water supply planning aims to avoid moving to higher levels of restrictions.
3. Exemptions will be in place for those that do not readily fit within the restrictions systems, such as hospitals, care facilities or core business activities. Council approval is given through the Water Saving Action Plan (WSAP) for businesses required to prepare one.
4. There should not be any compromise for maintaining health, hygiene and safety for people or pets. Cleaning outdoor areas for these reasons are acceptable.
5. Rainwater tanks that are connected to the town water supply for refilling are to be subject to the same water restrictions as town water.
6. These restrictions are applied to the use of reticulated town water supply. For those using alternate supply such as bores, Council encourages signage be placed at the front of the premises to identify the water source. Compliance officers may seek to obtain evidence of this alternative water supply.

Baseline water usage 400 litres per person per day

LEVEL 1: LOW

LEVEL 2: MODERATE

LEVEL 3: HIGH

LEVEL 4: VERY HIGH

LEVEL 5: EXTREME

LEVEL 6: CRITICAL

DECISION MAKING RATIONALE:

These levels of water restriction are focused on:

- General awareness rather than trying to achieve significant reductions in usage. The key measure is to limit outdoor watering. Generally the impact on residents and their gardens would be relatively minor.
- Actions are mainly initial measures that activate the Drought Management Plan and its various components.

KEY TASKS

1. Activate Drought Management Plan.
2. Implement water restrictions.
3. Review backup / emergency supply options.
4. Prepare community awareness campaign (media advertising, internet and appropriate signage at town entrances).
5. Review major existing Water Management Plan and update.
6. Weekly review of water supply , actual water consumption and targets.

DECISION MAKING RATIONALE:

These levels focus on:

- Implementation of water restrictions within the community, including bans on unattended or untimed watering of lawns and gardens.
- Reducing water usage below typical levels for that time of year. The measures are likely to cause a moderate level of inconvenience to the community, without having extreme impacts on most lawns and gardens. The aim is to prevent over-watering and change watering behaviours.
- Increased communication with key stakeholders to take place.

KEY TASKS

1. Implement community awareness campaigns.
2. Commence issuing warnings and fines for violation of restrictions.
3. Regular drought management coordination meetings, track costs and budgets, water consumption and targets, issues and risks.
4. Meetings with large water users.
5. Consider temporary closure of non-essential, high water dependent services.
6. Preparation of back up supply sources.

DECISION MAKING RATIONALE:

This level limits all forms of outdoor watering. Residents will experience significant impacts to their normal water usage. The aim is to reduce usage well below typical base line levels while still allowing gardens to be maintained, at a basic level.

Key actions include increased focus on compliance for violation of restrictions, increasing the community awareness campaign and notifying Commonwealth/ NSW Government of the intention to investigate and, if necessary, implement backup supply and/or emergency water supply options.

KEY TASKS

1. Increase community awareness campaign.
2. Meet with large non-residential users to discuss options for further water reduction.
3. Regular liaison with key stakeholders.
4. Daily review of water supply against actual water consumption compared to target
5. Contact large residential water users.
6. Consider temporary closure of non-essential, high water dependant services.

DECISION MAKING RATIONALE:

This critical level of restrictions involve an intense communication campaign to reduce usage to absolute minimum levels. This would include elimination of all non-essential water usage. It would have major impacts on nearly all residences and businesses. Businesses may be asked to restrict water usage to only essential services, with the possible shutting down of non-essential, water dependent services.

Key actions include implementing emergency response/supply options and an intensive community water reduction appeal.

KEY TASKS

1. Strict compliance.
2. Intense community water reduction campaign.
3. Meetings with large water users continue.
4. Temporary closure of non-essential, high water dependent services.
5. Daily review of water supply vs actual water consumption compared to target.
6. Implement emergency responses.

WATER RESTRICTIONS COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL

WATER SAVING IN ACTION

- These restrictions apply to commercial businesses and institutions. Not all businesses are required to submit a Water Saving Action Plan (WSAP). Only businesses determined by Council as the top high water users will be notified and required to complete a WSAP.
- Businesses that are not required to submit a WSAP are still expected to comply with the water restrictions. The restrictions provide uniform water restrictions across core business activities.
- Individual businesses have different needs and uses for water. The WSAP provides an opportunity to identify the specific water requirements of each business. These requirements must be reviewed by Council.
- The WSAP provides opportunity to identify areas of proactive water saving within the business. Consideration of upgrading inefficient equipment will support broad community efforts to reduce the likelihood of tighter restrictions into the future.
- It is encouraged that the laying of turf for subdivisions and open space is deferred or minimised subject to endorsement from Council's Development & Environment Division subject to development consent.
- No greywater is permitted in commercial or institutional uses due to health contamination concerns. Approved treatment systems only.
- These are the restrictions that Council is placing on the use of its potable (drinking) water supply. If the restrictions say "Not permitted" for a particular use, this means that Council's potable water supply cannot be used. Water from another source, however, could be used for this purpose.
- Rainwater tanks that are filled by Council's potable water supply are subject to the same water restrictions as town water.

ADVISORY NOTE

Level 3 Restrictions

- Follow the water restrictions for Commercial and Institutional.
- Council is required to notify required businesses to prepare a Water Saving Action Plan (WSAP).
- Use this Water Restrictions Commercial and Institutional Guide - Activities to help prepare WSAP.

Level 4 Restrictions

- Follow the water restrictions for Commercial and Institutional.
- Activate and comply with the approved Water Saving Action Plan.

Level 5

- Follow the water restrictions for Commercial and Institutional.
- Improve water efficiency where possible.
- Review essential or core business needs for water use as extreme drought conditions continue.
- Partnered approach (Council and industry) in on site auditing, support, and advice on Water Saving Action Plan, if required.

ACTIVITIES TABLE – Water restrictions for the majority of business activities.

ACTIVITY	LEVEL 1 LOW	LEVEL 2 MODERATE	LEVEL 3 HIGH	LEVEL 4 VERY HIGH	LEVEL 5 EXTREME	LEVEL 6 CRITICAL
INDOOR BUSINESS AREAS						
Toilets, Showers, Basins	Permitted. Recommended upgrades; water saving shower heads, check for leaking tap-ware, and include water wise information for guests etc.	Permitted. Recommended upgrades; water saving shower heads, check for leaking tap-ware, and include water wise information for guests etc.	Permitted. Recommended upgrades; water saving shower heads, check for leaking tap-ware, and include water wise information for guests etc.	Permitted. Recommended upgrades; water saving shower heads, check for leaking tap-ware, and include water wise information for guests etc.	Permitted. Identify non essential water uses that may be turned off or limited.	Permitted. Identify non essential water uses that may be turned off or limited.
Commercial kitchens, food and meat preparation areas, eating areas (including outdoor dining).	Permitted. No restrictions to ensure health standards are maintained.	Permitted. No restrictions to ensure health standards are maintained.	Permitted. No restrictions to ensure health standards are maintained. Identify if water saving efficiencies can safely be made.	Permitted. No restrictions to ensure health standards are maintained. Identify if water saving efficiencies can safely be made.	Permitted. No restrictions to ensure health standards are maintained. Identify if water saving efficiencies can safely be made.	Permitted. No restrictions to ensure health standards are maintained. Identify if water saving efficiencies can safely be made.
Laundry services	Permitted. Recommended: Offer guests options to reduce towel refresh / alternate day servicing.	Permitted. Recommended: Offer guests options to reduce towel refresh / alternate day servicing.	Permitted. Recommended: Offer guests options to reduce towel refresh / alternate day servicing.	Permitted. Recommended: Offer guests options to reduce towel refresh / alternate day servicing.	Permitted. Recommended: Offer guests options to reduce towel refresh / 3rd or 4th day servicing.	Permitted. Recommended: Offer guests options to reduce towel refresh / 3rd or 4th day servicing.

WATER RESTRICTIONS COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL



ACTIVITY	LEVEL 1 LOW	LEVEL 2 MODERATE	LEVEL 3 HIGH	LEVEL 4 VERY HIGH	LEVEL 5 EXTREME	LEVEL 6 CRITICAL
EXTERNAL BUSINESS AREAS						
Topping up swimming pools and spas	Permitted.	Permitted.	Only for a 2 hour maximum time period. Must use pool covers.	Only for a 2 hour maximum time period. Must use pool covers.	NOT PERMITTED	NOT PERMITTED
First fill of swimming pool	Permitted. Must have a pool cover.	Permitted. Must have a pool cover.	Permitted. Must have a pool cover.	Only permitted with Council permission. Must have a pool cover.	Only permitted with Council permission. Must have a pool cover.	NOT PERMITTED
Hydrotherapy Pools	No restrictions to health and wellbeing facilities.	No restrictions to health and wellbeing facilities.	No restrictions to health and wellbeing facilities.	No restrictions to health and wellbeing facilities.	No restrictions to health and wellbeing facilities.	No restrictions to health and wellbeing facilities.
Washing down of hard areas, driveways, roofs, walls and paths, window cleaning	Permitted Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used. Buckets permitted.	Permitted Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used. Buckets permitted.	Permitted for health and safety reasons only or to continue core business activities. Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used. Buckets permitted.	Permitted for health and safety reasons only or to continue core business activities. Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used. Buckets permitted.	Permitted with Council approval or WSAP for health and safety reasons only or to continue core business activities.	Not permitted excepting with Council approval.
Pet care and animals	Provision of drinking water permitted. Washing animals with bucket or hand held hose fitted with an on/off nozzle permitted. Cleaning of pens permitted. High pressure washers permitted.	Provision of drinking water permitted. Washing animals with bucket or hand held hose fitted with an on/off nozzle permitted. Cleaning of pens permitted. High pressure washers permitted.	Provision of drinking water permitted. Washing animals with bucket or hand held hose fitted with an on/off nozzle permitted. Cleaning of pens permitted. High pressure washers permitted.	Provision of drinking water permitted. Washing animals with bucket or hand held hose fitted with an on/off nozzle permitted. Cleaning of pens permitted. High pressure washers permitted.	Provision of drinking water permitted. Washing animals with bucket or hand held hose fitted with an on/off nozzle permitted. Cleaning of pens permitted. High pressure washers permitted. Reduce numbers of animals where possible.	Provision of drinking water permitted. Washing animals with bucket or hand held hose fitted with an on/off nozzle permitted. Cleaning of pens permitted. High pressure washers permitted. Reduce numbers of animals where possible.
CARS AND TRANSPORT						
Washing vehicles by hand	Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used. Buckets permitted.	Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used. Buckets permitted.	Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used. Buckets permitted.	Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used. Buckets permitted.	Permitted for health, hygiene and safety reasons only or to continue core business activities. Buckets permitted.	Not permitted except with Council approval or WSAP for essential business only.

WATER RESTRICTIONS COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL



ACTIVITY	LEVEL 1 LOW	LEVEL 2 MODERATE	LEVEL 3 HIGH	LEVEL 4 VERY HIGH	LEVEL 5 EXTREME	LEVEL 6 CRITICAL
WATERING OF LANDSCAPED AREAS AND LAWNS						
<p>Hand held hoses fitted with an on/off trigger style nozzle.</p> <p>Water efficient drip and/or fixed timing / programmable/smart water systems.</p> <p>Any watering system that does not have a timer must be attended at all times.</p>	Permitted.	Permitted.	<p>WATER OUTDOORS FOR 1 HOUR MAXIMUM ON MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS ONLY</p> <p>Only 1 outlet at any time.</p>	<p>WATER OUTDOORS FOR 30 MINUTES MAXIMUM ON MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS ONLY.</p> <p>Only 1 outlet at any time.</p>	<p>WATER OUTDOORS FOR 15 MINUTES MAXIMUM ON MONDAYS ONLY.</p> <p>Only 1 outlet at any time.</p>	NOT PERMITTED
Watering new turf	Permitted.	Permitted.	<p>Watering is permitted for turf establishment.</p> <p>Use suitable ground preparation with soil wetting agents.</p> <p>A new turf watering plan must be submitted and approved by Council.</p>	<p>Watering is permitted for turf establishment.</p> <p>Use suitable ground preparation with soil wetting agents.</p> <p>Up to a maximum 50m² of new turf.</p> <p>A new turf watering plan must be submitted and approved by Council.</p>	NOT PERMITTED	NOT PERMITTED
BUSINESS ACTIVITIES						
Dust suppression	Permitted for compaction and dust suppression only.	<p>Permitted for essential compaction and dust suppression only.</p> <p>Encourage use of non-potable sources.</p>	<p>Permitted for essential compaction and dust suppression only.</p> <p>Encourage use of non-potable sources.</p> <p>Prepare WSAP if notified by Council</p>	<p>Permitted for essential compaction and dust suppression only.</p> <p>Encourage use of non-potable sources.</p> <p>Implement approved WSAP if required.</p>	<p>Permitted for essential compaction and dust suppression only.</p> <p>Encourage use of non-potable sources.</p> <p>Implement approved WSAP if required.</p>	Not permitted except with Council approval or WSAP
Cleaning of construction and other sites	Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used.	Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used.	<p>Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used.</p> <p>Prepare WSAP if notified by Council</p>	<p>Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used.</p> <p>Implement approved WSAP if required.</p>	<p>Permitted for essential business needs or health and safety only.</p> <p>Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used.</p> <p>Implement approved WSAP if required.</p>	Not permitted except with WSAP for essential business only.

WATER RESTRICTIONS COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL



ACTIVITY	LEVEL 1 LOW	LEVEL 2 MODERATE	LEVEL 3 HIGH	LEVEL 4 VERY HIGH	LEVEL 5 EXTREME	LEVEL 6 CRITICAL
Commercial cleaning including	Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used.	Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used.	Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used.	Permitted for health and safety reasons only or to continue core business activities. Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used.	Permitted for health and safety reasons only or to continue core business activities. Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used.	Permitted for health and safety reasons only or to continue core business activities. Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used.
Car wash facilities and car yards	Permitted.	Permitted.	Permitted.	Permitted to continue core business activity.	Permitted to continue core business activity.	Permitted to continue core business activity.
Landscape construction works, hard works.	Avoid using water during the heat of the day. Buckets permitted. Hoses fitted with trigger nozzles. Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used.	Avoid using water during the heat of the day. Buckets permitted. Hoses fitted with trigger nozzles. Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used.	Avoid using water during the heat of the day. Buckets permitted. Hoses fitted with trigger nozzles. Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used. Prepare WSAP if notified by Council	Avoid using water during the heat of the day. Buckets permitted. Hoses fitted with trigger nozzles. Efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners with trigger control are to be used. Implement approved WSAP if required.	Permitted with WSAP. Use water before 10am or after 4pm. Buckets permitted. Hoses fitted with trigger nozzles and efficient high pressure, low flow rate cleaners only. Implement approved WSAP if required.	Not permitted except with Council approval.
Landscape construction works, soft works, planting and turf installation.	Permitted Follow restrictions for irrigation of new turf.	Permitted Follow restrictions for irrigation of new turf.	Permitted Follow restrictions for irrigation of new turf.	Permitted Encourage laying of new turf be deferred or minimised (subject to receiving the endorsement of the Council's Development & Environment Division where subject to development consent. Follow restrictions for irrigation of new turf.	Permitted with WSAP or Council approval. Encourage laying of new turf be deferred or minimised (subject to receiving the endorsement of the Council's Development & Environment Division where subject to development consent. Follow restrictions for irrigation of new turf.	Not permitted except with Council approval.

Water Saving Action Plan (WSAP):

This is a specific plan to adopt water efficiencies in the business WSAP must be submitted to Council for approval. A template is available from dubbo.nsw.gov.au/droughthub

Failure to comply with water restrictions can result in on the spot fines under the Local Government Act 1993.