

## DAILY WATER USAGE

### **UNDER LEVEL 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS RESIDENTS HAVE A DAILY TARGET OF 380L PER PERSON PER DAY**

Our data for the LGA's weekly water consumption has now moved to our Drought Hub, which can be accessed here.

### **WATER SAVING TIPS**

For information and advice on saving water please visit Council's Saving Water webpage.

### **HOW DOES WATER USAGE IN DUBBO COMPARE TO OTHER CENTRES?**

Dubbo has a hot dry climate compared to other parts of NSW. While Sydney receives precipitation of about 1,200mm per year on average, and Orange receives about 880mm, Dubbo only receives 580mm precipitation per year on average. Dubbo has higher temperatures and therefore greater evaporation of precipitation that does fall. In addition many houses in Dubbo are fitted with evaporative coolers. These are only effective in areas of low humidity. For that reason they are almost unknown on the coast. While these units use water, they use much less electricity than the refrigerated air conditioners common on the coast.

### **WATER USAGE COMPARED TO PERMITTED WATER USAGE (WATER LICENCE)**

2020/2021 - Water usage compared to permitted water usage ( 235.1KB)

The solid red line shows the cumulative water consumption that would just meet Dubbo's existing water extraction licences. So that the City does not exceed the existing licence limits, the City water extraction must stay "below" this line. The actual cumulative City water extraction each month is shown by the dotted line.

### **HOW CAN I KEEP TRACK OF MY WATER USAGE?**

You can monitor your water usage simply by reading your water meter on a regular basis. By checking your meter regularly, you can keep a record of how much water you are using.

Council reads your water meter quarterly in order to establish your water usage, which is recorded in kilolitres. To find out how to monitor and record your water usage please read [How to read your smart water meter \(~~~DocAnnotation.type.42462~~~ ~~~DocAnnotation.size.42462~~~\)](#)

### **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS EFFECT ON WATER SUPPLY AND USAGE**

Climate change will have a profound effect on Council's Water and Sewerage undertakings.

### **WHAT DOES CLIMATE CHANGE MEAN FOR THE WATER INDUSTRY?**

In Australia, the approach, quite sensibly, has always been to exploit the cleanest and closest water source. Typically this meant capturing runoff in large dams, in hilly or mountainous regions upstream of our major cities. The water quality in such large storages is quite good and the water can often flow under gravity to the city downstream in the valley.

Climate change means that rainfall will decrease and that rainfall events will be more intense but more sporadic.

Runoff will only occur when rain falls on already wet catchments. Climate change models predict that rainfall over much of Australia may fall by 10%. However, the probability that this reduced rainfall will fall on already wet catchments, generating runoff, is much less. Modelling indicates a 10% reduction in rainfall will see a 40% reduction in runoff. Another issue, already evident in Australia, is that bushfires and intense storms can result in runoff that causes serious degradation of water quality in the storage dams.

With the existing dams now supplying less water, the water industry will have to go further afield to seek out poorer quality water sources, sources that would have been rejected in the past.

The problem with this is that these new water sources are expensive because of the cost, particularly of energy, to treat them and the cost, again in energy, to transport them to the cities. These high energy costs are also likely to increase sharply in price due to the economic impact of climate change.

Some of these new sources could be stormwater, sewage and even seawater. The adoption of these new sources will see a big increase in water costs over time. Until recently it was common for water to be available to city dwellers for less than one dollar a tonne on demand. In the future, it is likely there will be a major shift in the cost of water, to reflect these new higher cost water sources, and to replace cheap coal-based energy used to source and treat this water, with more expensive but renewable energy.

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