

## Water restrictions

<b>Policy, procedure, protocol</b>	Policy
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<b>Section / Department</b>	Water Cycle
<b>Linkage to Our Community Plan</b>	4. Our Environment
<b>Objective</b>	4.3 We will establish a healthy balance between development and the environment
<b>Strategy</b>	4.3.3 - Educate the community about sustainable practices in the home, at work and in public places

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## 1. Purpose

To introduce or revoke water restrictions on the use of reticulated water in the Clarence Valley as required in accordance with the triggers nominated in the procedures and in compliance with relevant Acts.

### Application of policy

This policy applies to all properties using water supplied by Council's water supply infrastructure. The policy does not apply to the use of water from sources that are not part of Council's water supply infrastructure such as farm dams, watercourses, bores, and rainwater tanks on properties that have no connection to Council's water supply.

## 2. Definitions

**Commercial/industrial water use** – Water that is essential to the operation of a business or commercial enterprise.

**Permanent water conservation measures** – Measures that apply permanently to encourage efficient use of water

**Trigger** – conditions that apply for water restrictions to be introduced or revoked.

## 3. Background/legislative requirements

The following Acts and legislative requirements are relevant to this policy:

- NSW Water Management Act 2000
- Shannon Creek Water license no: 30SL066010 issued 17<sup>th</sup> March 2006
- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulation, 2005

## 4. Policy statement

Restrictions are a necessary management tool for a well managed water supply. To design and operate a water supply for all drought situations would be very expensive. The "5/10/20" rule has been used as the basis for all long term supply strategies. The "5/10/20 rule may be summarised as follows:

- Restrictions on supply will not last, in total, for more than 5% of the time (averaged over a 10-20 year period);
- Restrictions on supply will not be necessary more than once in every ten years (on average);
- The water supply system will be able to supply 80% of normal demand through any drought event that is as severe as or less severe than the worst ever recorded drought, with this percentage being measured from the point in time when restrictions are first applied.

To minimise the frequency and severity of any water restrictions imposed, the Clarence Valley Council will vigorously encourage water conservation and demand management. Through efficient use of water and the provision of adequate infrastructure the impact of restrictions will be minimised. Future infrastructure provision will be planned based on growth projections and design

capacity including the 5/10/20 rule, however additional infrastructure will not be installed until restrictions have been implemented as a direct result of the need for such infrastructure. This maximizes the asset life and allows for demand management the maximum opportunity to delay costly infrastructure provision.

The General Manager has delegated authority to introduce, upgrade or revoke water restrictions as required.

Clarence Valley Council will carefully consider the needs of all consumers before introducing or upgrading water restrictions, especially the needs of those who rely on water for commercial operations and/or where the health and safety of people is concerned.

Clarence Valley Council has worked with water supply authorities across the North Coast to achieve consistent naming for levels of restriction and the current policy is consistent with regional policies. This helps to reduce confusion amongst the consumers of the various water supply authorities.

A variety of communication strategies have been implemented to ensure that all consumers of water are made aware of any restrictions imposed from time to time and to increase the awareness of appropriate water efficiency methods.

## **5. Procedures**

### **Permanent water conservation measures**

In an effort to promote water efficient measures and in response to community comment permanent water conservation measures were introduced in 2007. This means that the use of sprinklers and unattended hoses is banned permanently between the hours of 9am and 4pm every day when evaporation is at its highest. However there are no restrictions on hand held hoses or micro-sprays and drippers/sub-surface irrigation.

### **Introducing water restrictions**

Introduction of water restrictions is linked to the storage remaining in Shannon Creek Dam and other water supply reservoirs. The policy enables restrictions to be applied in specific areas if storage reservoirs fall below determined levels.

Table 1 indicates the triggers when a level of water restriction is to be introduced and Table 2 indicates restrictions on water use which apply at each level.

### **Restrictions for emergency management and/or maintenance**

Localised water restrictions may be introduced at any time to manage situations including but not limited to pump or main failures. In these circumstances restrictions may be implemented to prevent failure of supply in a localised area. This will be done on a case by case basis and restrictions will be as directed by Council.

### **Recycled water**

There are no restrictions on the use of recycled during periods of water restriction unless directed by Council.

## Bores

Bores may be used during periods of water restrictions. Properties connected to the Council water supply where bore water is being used should have clearly visible signage to signify that a bore is in use on the property.

## Revoking a level of water restriction

For all areas supplied from the Nymboida River, restrictions will be revoked when flows in the Nymboida River exceed 225ML/day for 14 days.

For all other instances - restrictions shall be revoked when the reservoirs are full or the localised situation is resolved.

**Table 1: Restrictions that apply to all areas supplied from the Nymboida River**

Level	Trigger (Nymboida River <225ML/day as measured by the Nymboida River flow gauge at Nymboida AND Shannon Creek Storage - % full)	Target reduction %	Target Consumption (ML/d)	Estimated Weeks Water Left
<b>Water Conservation Measures</b>	<b>Permanent</b>	N/A	N/A	
<b>1 Moderate</b>	<b>80%</b>	0 - 10%	15-17	86-93
<b>2 High</b>	<b>65%</b>	10 - 20%	13-15	76-82
<b>3 Very High</b>	<b>50%</b>	20 - 30%	12-13	63-70
<b>4 Severe</b>	<b>35%</b>	30 - 40%	10-12	49-54
<b>Emergency</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>40 - 50%</b>	<b>8-10</b>	<b>31-35</b>

**Table 2: Restrictions on water use that apply to each level**

Level	Restrictions – Residential Outdoor Component
<b>Water Conservation Measures</b>	No sprinklers or unattended hoses between the hours of 9.00am to 4.00pm Micro-sprays and drippers/sub-surface irrigation allowed at any time.
<b>1 Moderate</b>	Micro-sprays and drippers/sub-surface can be used for a maximum of 15 minutes and hand held hoses can be used for 1 hour every second day, between the hours of 4.00pm and 9.00am on odd or even days matching house numbering system. Other irrigation and unattended hoses banned. Commercial/industrial use of water not restricted.
<b>2 High</b>	Micro-sprays and drippers/sub-surface can be used for a maximum of 15 minutes and hand held hoses can be used for ½ hour every second day, between the hours of 4.00pm and 9.00am on odd or even days matching house numbering system. Other irrigation and unattended hoses banned. Watering of open spaces, sporting fields and golf courses banned unless recycled water is being used. Commercial/industrial use of water not restricted.
<b>3 Very High</b>	No irrigation permitted. Use of buckets any time, or hand held hoses for a maximum of 10 minutes, every second day, between the hours of 4.00pm and 9.00am on odd or even days matching house numbering system. Filling and topping up of swimming pools banned. Watering of open spaces, sporting fields and golf courses banned unless recycled water is being used. Commercial/industrial use of water not restricted.
<b>4 Severe</b>	All external use of potable water banned. Grey water and recycled water use only. Review of commercial/industrial water use and introduction of limited restrictions
<b>Emergency</b>	<b>As directed by Council.</b>

## 6. Reviewing what is restricted at particular levels

The General Manager may, at any time, review what activities are restricted at particular levels. Such reviews are to be based on:

- Technical data provided by staff and any external authorities;
- Feedback from consumers, both directly and through staff who deal with customer enquiries;
- Restrictions imposed at various levels by nearby water supply authorities;
- Licensing or other requirements set down by the State Government and/or its authorities;
- Any other relevant information.

## 7. Communication strategies

Whenever a level of water restrictions is introduced, advertisements will be placed in the Daily Examiner, and the Clarence Valley Review. In addition to paid advertisements, promotional material will be forwarded with a request that items be included in the various papers.

For levels 3 and above, radio and television advertisements will be placed as determined by the General Manager.

For level 4 and above, a letter box drop advising every household and business in the Clarence Valley of the restrictions will be undertaken in addition to the above strategies.

Whenever water restrictions are revoked, similar advertising will be undertaken as deemed appropriate by the General Manager.

## **8. Dealing with breaches of water restrictions**

Breaching water restrictions is an offence under Section 637 of the Local Government Act. Action may be undertaken against consumers who are detected breaching water restrictions in accordance with Council's Enforcement Policy.

## **9. Resourcing activities associated with water restrictions**

The General Manager will allocate sufficient skilled personnel and other resources to ensure that all procedures are carried out in a timely and professional manner.