

Water Restrictions - Council Policy

Effective Date	<i>16 September 2009</i>
Policy Owner	<i>Utilities Manager</i>
Link to Corporate Plan	<i>Strategic Priority: Great Liveability</i>
Review Date	<i>January 2023</i>
Related Legislation	<i>Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008</i>
Related Documents	<i>Water Restriction Procedure</i>

Policy Version	Approval Date	Adopted/Approved
<i>1</i>	<i>01/04/2009</i>	<i>Ordinary Meeting of Council</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>17/08/2016</i>	<i>Ordinary Meeting of Council</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>23/01/2019</i>	<i>Ordinary Meeting of Council</i>

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1. PURPOSE

To provide an operational framework to manage the risk of failure to water supply in circumstances where low rainfall, system failures, or water quality, restrict or limit the ability to supply water.

2. SCOPE

This policy provides a graduated scale of controls to promote water demand management to ensure good water conservation practices within Western Downs Regional Council.

3. POLICY

3.1 Applications

This policy applies to the use of all types of watering devices and all types of customers connected to Western Downs Regional Council water supply systems.

3.2 Legislation

Section 41 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* lists the conditions under which Western Downs Regional Council as a water service provider may restrict supply or vary the conditions under which a customer may use water from a Western Downs Regional Council water supply.

3.3 Public Information

In accordance with Section 43 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* Western Downs Regional Council will as a minimum notify the public of any changes to the water restrictions by the placement of a public notice in a newspaper the day before the water restrictions come into force, or by leaflet drop to all households.

3.4 Infringement Notice

Where a person is found to be in breach of a water restriction, Western Downs Regional Council may issue an infringement notice.

Any infringement notice issued shall comply with:

1) Sub section (3) of section 43 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* which establishes the maximum penalty as:

- a. for a non-residential customer—1665 penalty units; or
- b. for any other person—200 penalty units.

2) Section 8A of the *State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2000* nominates the local government as the administering authority for an infringement notice for offences against the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*, section 43 (3).

3) Schedule 5 of the *State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2000* sets the infringement notice fine against section 43 (5) of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* at one (1) penalty unit.

3.5 Level of Water Restrictions

The level of water restrictions shall be based on the available storage volumes and categorised according to available surface storage volume, available bore yields and available plant capacity.

The Water Restriction Procedure shall be used to guide the determination of the appropriate water restriction to apply to a particular supply system at a particular time.



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3.6 Variations to Water Restrictions

Applications for exemptions from water restrictions or variations to watering Start/Finish times must be made in writing. Application forms are available at Customer Service Centres.

The General Manager (Infrastructure Services) is authorised to decide applications for variations to the standard watering Start/Finish times which do not involve an increase in the total allowable watering time per week for each level of restriction. Details of such decisions shall be provided in writing to the applicant any decision to vary the standard watering Start/Finish times shall be recorded in Council's database.

The General Manager (Infrastructure Services) is authorised to determine applications for short term exemptions (i.e. increase in the total allowable watering time per week) from the imposed watering periods allowable for each level of restriction. Details of such decisions shall be provided in writing to the applicant and shall be recorded in Council's database.

