



# **SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

## **LATE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Wednesday, 24 July 2019**



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## 12. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS

### 12.3 Water Contingency Plan

#### Document Information

 <b>Southern Downs</b> REGIONAL COUNCIL	<b>Report To: General Council Meeting</b>	
	<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	<b>Meeting Date:</b> 24 July 2019
	Director Infrastructure Services	<b>ECM Function No/s:</b>

#### Recommendation

THAT Council receive the attached Water Contingency Plan.

#### Report

Southern Downs Regional Council is exploring all opportunities to ensure that there is a supply of drinking water to its residents and businesses. Current forecasts indicate that without substantial rainfall Stanthorpe will not have access to a reliable water supply by December 2019 and Warwick will be in a similar position by December 2020.

Council is working with key stakeholders from the State Government, other local government authorities, the community and businesses to undertake actions that ensure that drinking water is made available.

Council has engaged Bligh Tanner Consulting to develop a Water Security Strategy, a draft has been submitted and the final version is pending

Additionally, Council has engaged GHD to undertake a number of related activities that include an assessment of Council's bore water network, an assessment of the condition of Connolly Dam and recommendations in relation to providing water to Stanthorpe. This is also in the final draft format and will be presented to Council in August 2019.

Council has also engaged contractors to undertake leak detection in all of the reticulated water areas; this is expected to be completed by end of August 2019

Council has received the survey of the level of siltation in both Connolly and Storm King Dams. Sunwater has received data for Leslie Dam. The level of silt in all three dams is immaterial and there is no change to expected run-out dates for water supply.

The attached Water Contingency Plan provides an overview of the contingency actions that are being considered and implemented at present.

A report on water restrictions is being presented at the July meeting with revised recommendations for Council to consider when to move to Critical and Emergency Water Restrictions.

#### Budget Implications

Budget implications will be assessed on a monthly and quarterly basis

**Policy Consideration**

Water and Wastewater Customer Service Standards 2014

**Community Engagement**

Nil

**Legislation/Local Law**

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008

**Options**

Council:

1. Receive the Water Contingency Plan
2. Receive the Water Contingency Plan with changes
3. Not receive the Water Contingency Plan

**Attachments**

1. Southern Downs Water Contingency Plan [↓](#)



# **Southern Downs Water Contingency Plan**

Southern Downs Regional Council is exploring all opportunities to ensure that there is a supply of drinking water to its residents and businesses. Current forecasts indicate that without substantial rainfall Stanthorpe will not have access to a reliable water supply by December 2019 and Warwick will be in a similar position by December 2020.

Southern Downs Regional Council is working with key stakeholders from the State Government, other local government authorities, the community and businesses to undertake actions that ensure that drinking water is made available.

Council engaged Bligh Tanner Consulting to develop a Water Security Strategy, a draft has been submitted and the final version is pending.

Additionally, Council has engaged GHD to undertake a number of related activities that include an assessment of Council's bore water network, an assessment of the condition of Connolly Dam and recommendations in relation to providing water to Stanthorpe. This is also in final draft format and will be presented to Council in August 2019.

Council has also engaged contractors to undertake leak detection in all of the reticulated water areas; this is expected to be completed by end of August 2019.

Council has now received the survey of the level of siltation in both Connolly and Storm King Dams. Although there is some silt in the dams, it is a relatively small amount and has no material impact on the expected run out dates previously estimated. Sunwater has also advised that there has been no change to the Leslie Dam water volumes following the survey of the dam.

The following is an overview of the contingency actions that are being considered and implemented at present.

## **Stanthorpe**

### **Short term**

- With no rain and based on current consumption levels the water supply in Storm King is forecasted to be exhausted in the first two weeks of December 2019.
- The June 2019 consumption level detailed that Stanthorpe is using 1.4 ML per day, 41.8 ML per month.
- The average resident in Stanthorpe is using 186 litres per person per day; the current restrictions have a target of 120 litres per person per day.
- At this stage, Council does not intend to cart water from Coolmunda or Glenlyon Dams which are both at low levels and therefore have limited availability of water for Southern Downs. These options may be re-opened in the future should these dams receive rain events that recharge their dam levels.
- Consideration to be given to allowing transported water to be directly accessed into new water pipe connecting Storm King Dam and the Stanthorpe Water Treatment Plant.
- Quantify the costs of water delivery, currently estimated at \$1-\$2 million per month. The Preferred Supplier Arrangement for water carting is currently open with a closing date of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019.
- Water restriction levels have been reviewed, with critical water restrictions proposed as 100 litres per person per day and emergency water restrictions proposed at 80 litres per person per day.
- Water restrictions to be increased to critical level, 100 litres per person per day potentially from 1 September 2019 – further details are in the separate Council report on water restrictions being presented to Council on 24 July 2019.
- Emergency water restrictions will also potentially include a cost increase in the provision of water to residents and businesses.
- Critical and Emergency water restrictions will be strictly enforced with additional meter readings and enforcement.
- Leak detection repairs have been completed and all detected leaks on public infrastructure repaired throughout the Stanthorpe reticulated network.
- Desilting or dredging of Storm King Dam would only be considered once no more water is being used from the dam as there will be a negative impact on the water quality.
- Council officers will continue to work with local businesses to improve water conservation.
- Further work and resources are required for our Education Campaign to drive the daily water use down.
- Council officers will continue to provide community and school education sessions.
- Council officers will continue to work with accommodation providers in relation to water conservation.
- Officers will continue to identify other potential sources of water.
- The role and function of the Applethorpe Ring tank to be identified.
- Water for road construction and other works continues to be brought into Stanthorpe from other sources, such as Killarney and use of Warwick recycled water.
- Yields from the Soak and the Beehive to be monitored, as well as surrounding bores.
- If required Southern Downs Regional Council will assist where practical Tenterfield Shire Council to the provision of water.

- Removal of any illegal connections from the existing Storm King Dam pipeline has occurred as part of the construction of the new pipeline.
- Council is seeking to make water tanks or bladders mandatory for all new houses, commercial and industrial developments.

#### **Medium Term**

- Issues associated with recycled water that is currently supplied to the effluent users to be finalised, so as water can be used for other purposes.
- Increase the quality of the recycled water to allow other applications (road construction, etc.).
- Desilting to be potentially undertaken based on reports and survey of dead storage levels at Storm King Dam.
- Planning to commence on extending the Storm King Dam wall to increase capacity in the medium term.
- Planning and investigations to commence in relation to establishing a pipeline from Connolly Dam and Storm King Dam in the long term.
- Planning and investigations to commence in relation the upgrade or relocation of the Stanthorpe Wastewater Treatment facility in the medium term to deliver high quality of recycled water.
- Permanent water conservation measures to be mandated, including water tank rebates where applicable.
- Additional water allocations to be identified, such as Bookookara Creek.

#### **Long term**

- Subject to the planning and investigations seek funding for;
  - Raising the wall at Storm King Dam
  - Relocating or upgrading the Stanthorpe Wastewater Treatment Plant
  - Establishing a connection between Storm King Dam and Connolly Dam
  - Upgrading of the standard of the recycled water.
- Support the establishment of Emu Swamp Dam as an irrigation project.
- Further investigate the opportunities for sourcing water from the Clarence River in a consortium with Toowoomba Regional Council, Western Downs Regional Council and Tenterfield Shire Council.
- Retain permanent water conservation measures.

## Warwick

### Short Term

- With no rain and based on current consumption levels the water supplies in Leslie and Connolly Dam are forecasted to be exhausted by December 2020.
- Warwick, Allora and Yangan are all currently serviced by the Warwick Water Treatment Plant.
- Warwick's consumption in June 2019 was 4.2 ML per day and 126.4 ML per month.
- Allora's consumption in June 2019 was 0.16 MG per day and 4.8 ML per month.
- Yangan's consumption in June 2019 was 0.08 MG per day and 2.3 ML per month.
- The average resident in Warwick is using 144 litres per person per day, Allora is 89 litres per person per day and Yangan is 145 litres per person per day, the current restrictions have a target of 120 litres per person per day.
- Review of all bores in the Warwick region is taking place, including the validation of allocations and the quality and yield of each bore.
- Immediate assessment of the capacity of the Allora bores to service Allora (350 ML allocation), as has occurred in the past.
- There may also be an opportunity to use Allora bore water to supplement the Warwick supply by sending it back through the existing pipeline to the Warwick Water Treatment Plant.
- Seek endorsement from the Dalrymple Water Committee Meeting (This has occurred and endorsement has been provided).
- Establish the necessary infrastructure to provide drinking water from the bores to Allora.
- Separate Allora from the Warwick system thereby saving 5 ML per month that can be put back into the Warwick system.
- Leak detection has commenced in the Warwick reticulated system.
- Water restriction levels have been reviewed, with critical water restrictions proposed as 100 litres per person per day and emergency water restrictions proposed at 80 litres per person per day.
- Water Restrictions to be increased to critical level, 100 litres per person per day, potentially from 1 September 2019.
- Emergency Water restrictions will also potentially include a cost increase in the provision of water to residents and businesses
- Critical and Emergency Water Restrictions will be strictly enforced with additional meter readings and enforcement
- Secure water from inside or outside the region that can be transported to the Warwick Water Treatment Plant or Leslie Dam and the cost of transporting the water;
  - Reviewing the option for an emergency bore field either within or outside the region
- Council to investigate the installation of production bores in the Lyndhurst Lane area that could be connected to Leslie Dam network supplying up to 5 ML per day.
- Quantify the cost of the water and the cost of the transportation of the water to the Warwick Water Treatment facility.
- Quantify the cost of the water and the cost of the transportation of the water to Leslie Dam.
- Determine the most effective delivery point for the delivery of water.

- Deliver the new infrastructure identified in the funding applications in regard to recycled water in the industrial estate and saleyards.
- Commence discussion with Toowoomba Regional Council in relation to piping water from Clifton to Warwick, should Toowoomba decide to service Clifton (This discussion has occurred).
- Commence discussions with the Great Artesian Basin Authority in relation to accessing the basin.
- Seek endorsement from DNRME for additional bores to provide stock water.
- Dead storage level established for Connolly Dam to allow consideration of de-silting or dredging once Connolly Dam water is not in use.
- Emergency works at Connolly Dam have been identified and placed in budget.
- Considering the viability of additional allocation of water being purchased from SunWater at Leslie Dam.
- State Government Departments to review the application of recycled water or the quality of recycled water to be increased through additional processes.
- Council officers will continue to work with local businesses to improve water conservation.
- Council officers will continue to provide community and school education sessions.
- Council officers will work with accommodation providers in relation to water conservation.
- Council is seeking to make water tanks or bladders mandatory for all new houses, commercial and industrial developments.
- Council to exit water agreements with landholders around Leslie Dam in relation to expired water agreements.
- Preferred Supplier Arrangement for Water Carting is currently open with a closing date of 25 July 2019.

#### **Medium Term**

- Desilting to be potentially undertaken based on reports and survey of dead storage levels at Connolly Dam
- Planning and investigations to commence in relation to establishing a pipeline from Connolly Dam and Storm King Dam in the long term.
- Complete emergency works at Connolly Dam.
- Seal leaks and remove illegal connections to Connolly Dam pipeline.
- Permanent water conservation measures to be mandated, including water tank rebates where applicable.
- Continue to provide community education in relation to water conservation.
- Assess the capacity of the Killarney Water resources to supplement Warwick, potentially via Yangan.
- Planning and investigations to be commenced in relation to accessing water from the Great Artesian Basin.

### **Long Term**

- Create a grid system to distribute water across the municipality.
- Source a connection into the South East Queensland Water Grid or a connection to Clifton should Toowoomba proceed with a pipeline south.
- Establish production bores that have the capacity to drought proof Warwick.
- Increase the quality of and distribution network for the improved use of recycled water for industrial and farming purposes.
- Consider planning for an additional dam in the Elbow Valley region.

## **The Southern Downs Region**

### **Short Term**

- Establish a panel of water transport providers, as well as identifying accessible water resources from outside the region for emergency supply.
- Liaise with the owners of the two dams in Wallangarra to ensure a supply for urban use.
- Provide education to businesses and the broader community in relation to water conservation.
- Identify if possible options for the limited supply of water for livestock.
- Consider incentives for the installation of water tanks on rural properties.
- Validate the capacity of bores in areas outside the urban centres.
- Ascertain the capacity of the Soak and the Beehive.
- Consider the utilisation of bores around the Soak and the Beehive.
- Explore options in relation to augmented water supplies from Killarney.
- Make water tanks or bladders mandatory for all new houses, commercial and industrial developments.
- Manage the expectations of people living in rural areas seeking water for livestock.

### **Medium Term**


- Formalise a network of bores based on the review of the allocations to Southern Downs Regional Council.
- Ensure all bores are being used effectively.
- Develop a long term strategy for water management in the rural areas.
- Provide incentives to residents and businesses to conserve water.
- Seek additional water allocations for Killarney.
- Develop a cross border project with Tenterfield Shire Council to ensure water security.

### **Long Term**

- Review the strategies that have been developed.
- Work with the rural sector to aim for the highest levels of water efficiency.
- Ensure the sustainability of the water supply for small towns across the region.

## 12.4 Review of Water Restrictions

### Document Information

 <b>Southern Downs</b> REGIONAL COUNCIL	<b>Report To: General Council Meeting</b>	
	<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	<b>Meeting Date:</b> 24 July 2019
	Director Infrastructure Services	<b>ECM Function No/s:</b>

### Recommendation

THAT Council implements Critical water restrictions from 1 September 2019, with Emergency water restrictions to be enforced at a future date

### Report

#### Background Information

In March 2019, Council imposed extreme water restrictions in response to the drought in the Southern Downs region. These restrictions include target water use of 120 litres per person per day, with a number of prohibited water use activities.

Whilst there has been some drop in water consumption since the introduction of the water restrictions, the June 2019 consumption figures show Warwick residents are using around 144 litres/person/day, whilst Stanthorpe residents are using around 185 litres/person/day.

Council has undertaken a number of initiatives to ensure water remains in the dams for as long as possible, as well as to have more certainty in the amount of water in the dams. Leak detection and subsequent repairs have been undertaken throughout Stanthorpe, Dalveen and Wallangarra, with Warwick currently being checked for leaks. Silt levels and dead storage levels in Connolly Dam and Storm King Dam, as well as Leslie Dam through Sunwater, have been confirmed, and there is no material impact on the current projections for run out dates.

The dam levels as at 19 July 2019 were;

Dam	Current percentage full	Current Volume Available
Storm King	26.7%	552 ML
Leslie	6.32%	6715 ML
Connolly	36.5%	788 ML

The predicted run out forecast remains at December 2019 for the Stanthorpe supply and December 2020 for the Warwick supply. To ensure we meet these estimates all efforts must be made to meet the water restrictions as these dates are based on lower consumption and residential users meeting current restrictions.

It is proposed that new water restrictions are introduced with the change in season, with Critical water restrictions introduced targeting residential use of 100 litres/person/day. Critical water restrictions would include elements such as;

- Businesses conducting a business audit using a checklist supplied by Council (currently available online)

- Businesses to target a further 10% reduction in water consumption, this is in addition to the 30% reduction targeted under Extreme water restrictions – this has almost been achieved in both Warwick and Stanthorpe with reductions of 28% and 26% respectively.
- Water carters requiring residents to sign declarations to allow distribution of water via water carters to be monitored.
- No change to current standpipe allocation of 2000 litres per week.
- There a variety of other options that Council officers are currently investigating.

Introducing the Critical water restrictions from 1 September allows the community time to prepare for the change in consumption requirements and for a robust community education and media campaign to occur. It was noted when Extreme water restrictions were introduced there was an immediate noticeable drop in consumption, which is expected to occur again with the introduction of Critical water restrictions, along with the enhanced media and education campaign.

A further level of restrictions is recommended, which will be Emergency water restrictions with residential consumption to be limited to 80 litres/person/day. The details and timing of implementation will be determined depending on how well the community responds to the Critical water restrictions.

### **Budget Implications**

Reduction of income due to reduced consumption.

Increase in operational and capital cost to cart water once Storm King Dam is unable to be utilised.

### **Policy Consideration**

Water and Wastewater Customer Service Standards

Corporate Plan – 4.7 Develop and implement a Water Security Strategy that secures a sustainable, reliable water supply for the region.

### **Community Engagement**

Officers have been consulting with business and the community on an ongoing basis.

### **Legislation/Local Law**

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008

### **Options**

1. Council implements Critical water restrictions from 1 September 2019, with Emergency water restrictions to be enforced at a future date; or
2. Council does not implement the Critical water restrictions and the region remains on Extreme water restrictions beyond 1 September 2019.

### **Attachments**

Nil

## **17. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS ITEMS**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a local government may resolve to close a meeting to the public and move 'into Committee' to discuss confidential items, such that its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting.

### **Recommendation**

THAT the meeting be closed to the public and move into committee to discuss the following items, which are considered confidential in accordance with Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following, as indicated:

#### **17.9 June 2019 Monthly Report from Warwick Indoor Recreation and Aquatic Centre from YMCA Brisbane**

##### **Reason for Confidentiality**

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(h) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.

#### **17.10 Complaint and Summons Against Council**

##### **Reason for Confidentiality**

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(f) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to starting or defending legal proceedings involving Southern Downs Regional Council.