



SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

In accordance with Section 277E of the Local Government Regulation 2012 it is not practicable for the public to attend the meeting because of health and safety reasons associated with the public health emergency involving COVID-19.

The meeting will therefore be closed to the public, with only Councillors and staff essential for the functioning of the meeting in attendance. Consistent with Council's legislative responsibilities, the minutes of Council's meeting will be made available for inspection by the public on its website.

Dear Councillors

Your attendance is hereby requested at the Special Meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Southern Downs Regional Council, 64 Fitzroy Street, Warwick on **Tuesday, 30 March 2021 at 9:00AM.**

Notice is hereby given of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

Dave Burges

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

26 March 2021

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO COUNTRY

- 1. ATTENDANCE**
- 2. APOLOGIES**
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

4. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS

4.1 Water Restrictions

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: Special Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 30 March 2021
	Manager Water Senior Water Regulatory Officer	ECM Function No/s:

Recommendation

THAT Council relax current water restrictions and move to Permanent Water Saving Rules with a residential water use target of 200 litres per person per day, as set out in the Southern Downs Water Restrictions Guide (attached) with immediate effect.

Report

Recent rains have resulted in the water storages throughout the region reaching full urban supply volume, negating the need to continue the extreme level water restrictions of 120 litres per person per day.

A new Drought Management Plan (DMP) has been drafted and will be issued for public consultation in the coming months. The DMP contains revised drought response triggers, water restrictions levels and permanent water saving rules.

The revised water restriction schedule and DMP indicate that all water supply schemes should move to “permanent water saving rules”. These rules have a target level for residential water usage of 200 litres per person per day and require water wise behaviours to be practiced at all times.

This recommendation to relax restrictions pre-empts planned community engagement for the new Drought Management Plan. Engagement has been delayed due to a number of a time critical Strategies already issued for consultation. The DMP will be released for consultation in the near future; at the close of the consultation and review process, the finalised DMP will be issued to Council for endorsement. The level of water restrictions recommended in this report are taken directly from the DMP.

Full details of the proposed permitted uses are included in the attachment.

Budget Implications

Increased income due to increase in consumption.

Policy Consideration

Nil

Community Engagement

Internal Consultation

Water Department

External Consultation

Future consultation on the Drought Management Plan.

Legislation/Local Law

Water Safety (Supply and Reliability) Act 2008.

Attachments

1. Appendix A Water Restriction Schedule taken from Drought Management Plan [↓](#)

Southern Downs Water Restrictions

Restrictions apply to the use of treated, potable water only. This includes the bulk water supplied through the standpipes.
Restrictions do not apply to the use of private bore water, rainwater bucketed greywater or greywater applied through an approved system.

Permanent Water Saving Rules – these are applicable at all times

Hand Held Hose: Water from a hand-held hose can only be used if it is fitted with a trigger nozzle and is leak free.

Garden Sprinklers: Garden sprinklers must be a minimum 3 star rating and used in conjunction with a timer.

- Maximum use of a water efficient sprinkler is 20 minutes on any one day where outdoor watering is allowed.
- Sprinklers can only be used in accordance with scheduled outdoor watering times.
- Use of efficient sprinklers must comply with Efficient Irrigation for Water Conservation Guidelines.

Fixed irrigation systems: An efficient watering system may only be used with a timer.

- Maximum use of a fixed irrigation system is 30 minutes on any one day where outdoor watering is allowed.
- Fixed irrigation systems can only be used in accordance with scheduled outdoor watering times.
- Use of efficient fixed irrigation systems must comply with Efficient Irrigation for Water Conservation Guidelines.

Public Gardens, lawns and playing surfaces: A public garden, lawn area or playing surface can be watered with potable water if:

- The watering system is fitted with a rain or soil moisture sensor
- In accordance with an approved water use plan

Fountains and water features: potable water can be used in fountains or water features if the water is recirculated and use is allowed within the water restriction framework.

Cleaning of hard surfaces: water can be used (using waterwise practices) to clean driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking and solar panels where:

- Cleaning is required as a result of an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency (can occur any time of day)
- If surface staining has occurred (cleaning can occur once per season)
- In the course of construction or renovation (Exemptions may be required within the water restriction framework)

Waterwise practices must be used when cleaning hard surfaces. This means:

- Use of a high pressure, low volume water cleaning device; or
- If such a device is not available, a hand held hose (see above) or a bucket and broom

Outdoor watering and cleaning times: Use of water for outdoor watering and cleaning of hard surfaces can only occur:

- 7am – 9am and 4pm – 6pm May – September
- 6am – 8am and 5pm – 7pm October – April

Greywater: Greywater may be used providing outlets are not tapped to or cross-connected to the treated water supply. Certain health regulations apply to the use of grey water - please see Council website for details.

Restriction Level	Outdoor watering times using potable water	Properties	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Periods where no water restrictions apply	Permanent Water Saving Rules apply at all times	Any property can water on any day							
Low		Odd numbered							
Target 170		Even or unnumbered							
Medium	May – September:	Odd numbered							
Target 150	7am – 9am and 4pm – 6pm	Even or unnumbered							
High	October – April:	Odd numbered							
Target 120	6am – 8am and 5pm – 7pm	Even or unnumbered							
Critical		Odd numbered							
Target 100		Even or unnumbered							

Residential	Notes	When no water restrictions apply	Low	Medium	High	Critical
Residential Target	(litres per person per day)	200	170	150	120	100
Gardens & Lawns	Established residential lawns and gardens	PERMITTED within allocated times using: - Water efficient sprinklers - Fixed irrigation systems - Hand held hoses - Buckets & watering cans	PERMITTED on allocated days within allocated times using: - Water efficient sprinklers - Fixed irrigation systems - Hand held hoses - Buckets & watering cans	PERMITTED on allocated days within allocated times using: - Fixed irrigation systems - Buckets & watering cans EXEMPTIONS will be required for watering of new turf.	PERMITTED on allocated days within allocated times using: - Buckets and watering cans EXEMPTIONS will not be approved for the watering of gardens and lawns (includes new turf).	PERMITTED on allocated days within allocated times using: - Buckets and watering cans EXEMPTIONS will not be approved for the watering of gardens and lawns (includes new turf).
Residential Vehicle Washing (includes cars, boats, caravans, trailers and bikes)	Cleaning windows, mirrors and lights for safety can be done at any time of day using a bucket. Flushing of boat motors or vehicle brakes to maintain safe operation must be done on grassed areas where practicable.	PERMITTED within allocated times using: - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units	PERMITTED on allocated days within allocated times using: - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units	PERMITTED on allocated days using: - Spot cleaning on a grassed area using water from a bucket	PERMITTED on allocated days using: - Spot cleaning on a grassed area using water from a bucket.	PERMITTED on allocated days using: - spot cleaning on a grassed area using water from a bucket
Animal husbandry & Pet care (includes the provision of drinking water, washing of animals, cleaning of animal pens/enclosures)	Ornamental fish ponds, frog ponds and outdoor aquariums must be able to demonstrate efforts to reduce evaporation.	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units - Filling new ponds and outdoor aquariums and topping up existing ones	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units - Filling new ponds and outdoor aquariums and topping up existing ones	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units - Topping up existing ponds and outdoor aquariums PROHIBITED - Filling of new ponds or outdoor aquariums	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units - Topping up existing ponds and outdoor aquariums PROHIBITED - Filling of new ponds or outdoor aquariums	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units - Topping up existing ponds and outdoor aquariums PROHIBITED - Filling of new ponds or outdoor aquariums
Residential swimming pools, spas, water features and water play	Pool covers must be used to comply. Water features must reticulate water to comply.	PERMITTED: - Topping up existing pools, and spas - Filling of new and renovated swimming pools and spas. - Use of water play pools and toys	PERMITTED: - Topping up existing pools, and spas - Filling of new and renovated swimming pools and spas. - Use of water play pools and toys	PERMITTED Times limited to outdoor watering schedule. - Topping up existing pools and spas - Use of water play pools and toys EXEMPTIONS will be required for filling of new and renovated swimming pools and spas	PERMITTED Times limited to outdoor watering schedule. - Topping up existing pools EXEMPTIONS will be required for filling of new and renovated swimming pools and spas.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced.
General cleaning, renovations & property management	Includes: timber decks, windows driveways, pathways, house and roof painting preparation, solar panels, entertainment areas, outdoor furniture and paved surfaces.	PERMITTED on allocated days within allocated times using: - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units	PERMITTED on allocated days within allocated times using: - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units	PERMITTED on allocated dates within allocated times using: - Spot cleaning of outdoor space and windows using a bucket filled from a tap - Loose items should be removed by a broom, blower or similar device.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced. Loose items should be removed by a broom, blower or similar device.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced. Loose items should be removed by a broom, blower or similar device.
	Cleaning of outdoor spaces & windows when vacating a rental property.	PERMITTED on allocated dates within allocated times using: - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water units	PERMITTED on allocated dates within allocated times using: - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water units	PERMITTED on allocated dates within allocated times using: - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water units	PERMITTED on allocated dates within allocated times using: - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water units	PERMITTED: Windows and outdoor areas can be cleaned using a bucket filled from a tap.
Bulk Water	Domestic use only Access to bulk water via standpipe or carting for properties not connected to reticulated potable water supply/	PERMITTED	PERMITTED up to 5,000 litres per week per property. EXEMPTIONS may be requested.	PERMITTED up to 4,000 litres per week per property. EXEMPTIONS may be requested.	PERMITTED up to 3,000 litres per week per property. - Limited to SDRC residents and businesses EXEMPTIONS may be requested.	PERMITTED up to 2,000 litres per week per property. - Limited to SDRC residents and businesses EXEMPTIONS may be requested.

General comments on water restrictions for non-residential entities:

Users >10ML/year: are required to prepare a Water Efficiency Management Plan which is approved by Council.

Users >5ML per year: are required to prepare a Water Saving Action Plan which is approved by Council.

Active Playing Surfaces (local turfed and non-turfed, clubs and schools): must be operated in accordance with Councils active playing surface guidelines.

Nurseries, businesses with cooling towers and irrigation areas: must operate in accordance with a Council approved Water Conservation Plan as per the water restriction schedule.

Non-Residential	Notes	When no water restrictions apply	Low	Medium	High	Critical
Business Target	<i>Target is based on daily average use prior to restrictions being applied. If target cannot be attained, Water Saving Action Plans can be submitted for approval.</i>			Non-residential entities to aim for a 20% reduction.	Non-residential entities to aim for an additional 5% reduction	Zero increase in water consumption
Land development and building construction	<i>Includes: exposed aggregate driveways, laying of turf and establishment of new gardens</i>	PERMITTED with conditions - All fixtures and fittings must not leak - Water must not run to waste - Water use must not be left unattended.	PERMITTED with conditions - All fixtures and fittings must not leak - Water must not run to waste - Water use must not be left unattended.	PERMITTED with conditions - All fixtures and fittings must not leak - Water must not run to waste - Water use must not be left unattended.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced.
	<i>Includes: building construction; brick laying, tile cutting etc</i>	PERMITTED with conditions - All fixtures and fittings must not leak - Water must not run to waste - Water use must not be left unattended.	PERMITTED with conditions - All fixtures and fittings must not leak - Water must not run to waste - Water use must not be left unattended.	PERMITTED with conditions - All fixtures and fittings must not leak - Water must not run to waste - Water use must not be left unattended.	PERMITTED with conditions - All fixtures and fittings must not leak - Water must not run to waste - Water use must not be left unattended.	PERMITTED with conditions - All fixtures and fittings must not leak - Water must not run to waste - Water use must not be left unattended.
	<i>Dust suppression</i>	PERMITTED	PERMITTED	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced.
Commercial vehicle washing (includes cars, boats, caravans, trailers and bikes)	<i>Cleaning windows, mirrors and lights for safety can be done at any time of day using a bucket. Flushing of boat motors or vehicle brakes to maintain safe operation must be done on grassed areas where practicable.</i>	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units	PERMITTED only if: - cleaning of vehicles is required to comply with statutory or regulatory obligations - Car dealerships may wash brand new vehicles upon receipt. - Waterwise practices must be used	PERMITTED only if: - cleaning of vehicles is required to comply with statutory or regulatory obligations - Car dealerships may wash brand new vehicles upon receipt. - Waterwise practices must be used
Non-residential swimming pools, spas and water features	<i>Pool covers must be used to comply.</i> <i>Water features must reticulate water to comply.</i>	PERMITTED: - Topping up existing pools, and spas - Filling of new and renovated swimming pools and spas.	PERMITTED: - Topping up existing pools, and spas - Filling of new and renovated swimming pools and spas.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced. EXEMPTIONS will be required for filling of new and renovated swimming pools and spas.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced. EXEMPTIONS will be required for filling of new and renovated swimming pools and spas.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced. EXEMPTIONS will be required for filling of new and renovated swimming pools and spas.
Active playing surface irrigation	<i>Includes: watering and testing of irrigation systems</i>	PERMITTED in accordance with the active surface playing fields guidelines.	PERMITTED in accordance with the active surface playing fields guidelines.	PERMITTED in accordance with the active surface playing fields guidelines.	PERMITTED in accordance with the active surface playing fields guidelines. - Use of potable water is prohibited. Alternative water must be sourced.	PERMITTED in accordance with the active surface playing fields guidelines. - Use of potable water is prohibited. Alternative water must be sourced.

Item 4.1 Water Restrictions
Attachment 1: Appendix A Water Restriction Schedule taken from Drought Management Plan

Access to bulk water		PERMITTED - Commercial operators - Businesses visiting the region	PERMITTED - Commercial operators - Businesses visiting the region	PERMITTED - SDRC based commercial operators EXEMPTIONS required for businesses visiting the region.	PERMITTED - Access times and limits may apply. EXEMPTIONS required for SDRC based businesses.	PERMITTED - Access times and limits may apply. EXEMPTIONS required for SDRC based businesses.
General cleaning & property management	<i>Includes:</i> - outdoor areas - Community group clubhouses and facilities	PERMITTED on allocated dates within allocated times using: - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units	PERMITTED on allocated dates within allocated times using: - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units	PERMITTED on allocated dates within allocated times using: - Spot cleaning of outdoor space and windows using a bucket filled from a tap Loose items should be removed by a broom, blower or similar device.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced. Loose items should be removed by a broom, blower or similar device.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced. Loose items should be removed by a broom, blower or similar device.
	- rubbish bins, tools and related equipment	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units	PERMITTED: - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units
Animal husbandry & Pet care (includes the provision of drinking water, washing of animals, cleaning of animal pens/enclosures)	<i>Ornamental fish ponds, frog ponds and outdoor aquariums must be able to demonstrate efforts to reduce evaporation.</i>	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units - Filling new ponds and outdoor aquariums and topping up existing ones	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units - Filling new ponds and outdoor aquariums and topping up existing ones	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units - Topping up existing ponds and outdoor aquariums PROHIBITED - Filling of new ponds or outdoor aquariums	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units - Topping up existing ponds and outdoor aquariums PROHIBITED Filling of new ponds or outdoor aquariums	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units - Topping up existing ponds and outdoor aquariums PROHIBITED Filling of new ponds or outdoor aquariums
Watering gardens and lawns on commercial premises and schools	<i>Nurseries & gardens must operate in accordance with their approved Water Conservation Plan</i>	PERMITTED - Water efficient sprinklers - Fixed irrigation systems - Hand held hoses - Buckets & watering cans	PERMITTED on allocated days within allocated times using: - Water efficient sprinklers - Fixed irrigation systems - Hand held hoses - Buckets & watering cans	PERMITTED on allocated days within allocated times using: - Fixed irrigation systems - Buckets & watering cans	PERMITTED on allocated days within allocated times using: - Buckets & watering cans	PERMITTED on allocated days within allocated times using: - Buckets & watering cans
Flushing of fire hydrants and mains		PERMITTED	PERMITTED	PERMITTED when required by regulation	PERMITTED when required by regulation	PERMITTED when required by regulation
Mobile commercial operators (Includes: Dog washing, car detailing, carpet cleaning, building cleaning)	<i>Cleaning for health and safety is permitted at any time using the most effective water efficient practice.</i>	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units - All fixtures and fittings have a water efficient rating of 3 stars or more	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units - All fixtures and fittings have a water efficient rating of 3 stars or more	PERMITTED - Hand-held hoses - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units - All fixtures and fittings have a water efficient rating of 3 stars or more	PERMITTED - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units All fixtures and fittings have a water efficient rating of 3 stars or more	PERMITTED - Buckets - High pressure, low volume water cleaning units All fixtures and fittings have a water efficient rating of 3 stars or more
Events	<i>Event organisers are encouraged to demonstrate efforts in reducing potable water consumption.</i> <i>Events which may result in a consumption increase of 10% or greater will be required to submit a Water Conservation Plan to Council for approval</i>	PERMITTED - Domestic consumption - Drinking water for animals - Cleaning of buildings for health and safety purposes only using water efficient measures	PERMITTED - Domestic consumption - Drinking water for animals - Cleaning of buildings for health and safety purposes only using water efficient measures	PERMITTED - Domestic consumption - Drinking water for animals - Cleaning of buildings for health and safety purposes only using water efficient measures PROHIBITED Washing of livestock, building exteriors, animal pens/ enclosures or vehicles	PERMITTED - Domestic consumption - Drinking water for animals - Cleaning of buildings for health and safety purposes only using water efficient measures PROHIBITED Washing of livestock, building exteriors, animal pens/ enclosures or vehicles	PERMITTED - Domestic consumption - Drinking water for animals - Cleaning of buildings for health and safety purposes only using water efficient measures PROHIBITED - Washing of livestock, building exteriors, animal pens/ enclosures or vehicles

Council	Notes	When no water restrictions apply	Low	Medium	High	Critical
Watering of public parks, gardens, cemeteries and facilities	<i>Owned by Council or State Government</i>	PERMITTED - Water use efficiency irrigation practices applied	PERMITTED - Water use efficiency irrigation practices applied	PERMITTED - Water use efficiency irrigation practices applied	Alternative water must be sourced.	Alternative water must be sourced.
Council Construction	<i>Where possible, alternative water sources will be used such as recycled water, backwash water etc.</i>	PERMITTED	PERMITTED	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced.
Council Swimming Pools	<i>As per council pool and water play facilities top up strategy</i>	PERMITTED	PERMITTED	PERMITTED	PERMITTED	PERMITTED – raw water used to top up before re-opening
Ornamental fountains	<i>Ornamental fountains must reticulate water</i>	PERMITTED	PERMITTED	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced.	PROHIBITED Alternative water must be sourced.
Council reticulation network operational activities Includes flushing of lines and fire hydrants	<i>Water saving operational practices are regularly reviewed and implemented.</i>	PERMITTED	PERMITTED	PERMITTED when required by regulation	PERMITTED when required by regulation	PERMITTED when required by regulation
Park taps		PERMITTED	PERMITTED	PERMITTED	PROHIBITED Park taps to be removed or turned off	PROHIBITED Park taps to be removed or turned off