



FORBES SHIRE COUNCIL WATER RESTRICTIONS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2014 (LEVEL 1)

Reference – Regional Drought Management Plan - CENTROC

CONSUMER ACTIVITY	WATER RESTRICTION LEVEL 1
DOMESTIC	
Gardening and Lawn Watering	Watering systems, micro-sprays, drip systems, soaker hoses, non-fixed sprinklers, and hand held hoses can only be used between 6.00pm and 9.00am daily
Swimming Pools	First fill – permitted. Topping up – permitted
Irrigation of New Turf	Permitted for one week after laying the turf after which Level 1 Restrictions for Lawn watering applies.
Washing Paved Areas	Buckets only, except as required by law
Washing Motor Vehicles	Permitted with bucket and trigger hose on lawn at any time.
PUBLIC/COMMERCIAL	
General Commercial Premises/Factories	Watering systems, micro-sprays, drip systems, soaker hoses, non-fixed sprinklers, and hand held hoses can only be used between 6.00pm and 9.00am daily
Public Gardens & Sports Grounds	No Restrictions
Nurseries & Commercial Growers	No Restrictions
Public car & truck wash facilities	No Restrictions
Water Cartage from Town Supply	No Restrictions
INDUSTRIAL	
Ready Mixed Concrete	No Restrictions
Wash down paint prep or curing	No Restrictions

Notes:

Exemptions:

Anyone seeking a variation of the restrictions will need to apply to Council in writing on an application form available on request from Council. Please list all reasonable measures investigated to comply with the restrictions.

Penalties:

- Court action where a maximum penalty of up to \$5,500 in the case of a corporation or \$550 in the case of an individual may be sought.
- Authorised officers may issue an on the spot penalty notice for \$220 to either a corporation or individual.
- A restriction on service or disconnection of water supply. *(Note that in the case of restoration of supply, a reconnection fee will apply).*

Privately Owned Water Supplies:

If your property is supplied with water from a well or bore it is mandatory for you to display a sign clearly visible from the street adjoining the property being watered whilst restrictions are in place. The notice should be large enough to be visible from the street and should state: **“Well Water/Bore Water Used on Property”** *(whichever applies).*



WATER IS A PRECIOUS RESOURCE - DON'T WASTE IT

Here are some handy hints to conserve water and minimise wastage

- ❖ A leaking toilet can double the quantity of water it uses. Check for leaks from the cistern by adding food colouring to the water in the cistern and watching for colour coming through into the bowl.
- ❖ Install a low volume dual flush toilet.
- ❖ Repair dripping taps by replacing washers. A continuously dripping tap can mean up to 600 litres of water per day is wasted down the drain.
- ❖ A half filled bath uses less water than a long shower – take a bath – have a long soak.
- ❖ Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.
- ❖ Have a full load before you do the washing. If your machine has a suds return, using it will reduce the amount of water used.
- ❖ When using a dish washer – always wash a full load.
- ❖ Wash your car on the lawn using a bucket and sponge. Hose only for a quick final rinse. It is illegal to discharge soapy carwash water to the gutter under the PO&E Act.
- ❖ Water your lawn less often which encourages the roots to grow deeper.
- ❖ Cut the grass at least 2.5cm high. This will allow the root system to develop and find water deeper in the soil.
- ❖ Take off the grass catcher – leave clippings on the lawn as they make good mulch and help soil retain moisture longer.
- ❖ Mow weekly during the growing season and monthly during autumn and winter.
- ❖ Mulch garden beds to conserve moisture and choose water efficient plants. Try growing Australian native plants instead of thirsty exotic species. Mulching can reduce by half the water you use on your garden. You can make mulch yourself by composting vegetable scraps, leaves and lawn clippings.
- ❖ Avoid over fertilizing your lawn. The application of fertilizers increases the need for water. Apply fertilizers which contain slow-release water-insoluble forms of nitrogen.
- ❖ Use a timer with sprinklers or micro irrigation to deliver water efficiently.
- ❖ Don't water concrete or walls – they won't grow!!
- ❖ Store drinking water in the fridge rather than letting the tap run every time you want a cool glass of water.
- ❖ Occasionally check your water meter after your household has gone to bed and again before they get up. If the meter shows that water has been used – then there is probably a leak in your household pipes. If you notice any leaks from your water meter – call Council's Engineering Department 6850 2874.

