

WATER RESTRICTION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Introduction

The water supplies in the Ashburton district have historically come under pressure during the summer months and some schemes were never designed to accommodate watering of lawns and gardens (irrigation).

To manage these issues, water (hosing) restrictions in some form or other have been implemented during the summer months or during emergencies to manage the demand on the various schemes to acceptable levels.

In October 2001, Council adopted a water restriction policy that set out five levels of water restriction and the activities permitted under each. This policy went some way to addressing the issues at that time.

Since that time, there has been some confusion on the implementation of restrictions and what conditions dictate the transition from one level to another. Worse still, some schemes have not had restrictions put in place early enough to prevent supply problems.

This policy sets out to formalise when the first level of restriction is put in place and clarify the criteria that will be used to trigger the movement from one level to another.

The foundations of the policy are as follows:

- **Seasonal** restrictions are put in place at set times during the year as a matter of course i.e. over summer months and in particular the Christmas period.
- **High demand** restrictions are put in place based on the use of defined trigger points relating to daily consumption. Because daily consumption is quite variable, there is a need to base this on a multiple day rolling average. Comparisons between a 5, 7 and 14 day rolling average of daily consumption showed that a reasonable indication of consumption trend can be obtained from the **7 day rolling average**.

The policy does not set out rigid criteria for the introduction of Level 4 & 5. These levels of restriction are very severe and are only imposed when operational conditions require.

It is envisaged that this policy will ensure that restrictions are in place at the appropriate time and level required to ensure the supplies are available for their primary function; that of household use.

Note:- In the following policy statements "Level 0" means that no restrictions are in place.

Policy Statements

1. **Seasonal** water restrictions, based on historical demand patterns, implemented as follows:
 - (a) The **Level 1 – Alternate Days Hosing** restriction is placed on all applicable schemes on the first day of December each year and remains in place until the last day of March the following year or earlier subject to the criteria in clause 2(f) being met.
 - (b) The **Level 2 – Time Restricted Alternate Days Hosing** restriction is placed on all applicable schemes on the 20 December each year and remains in place until 8 January the following year.
2. **High Demand** water restrictions, based on criteria relating to the seven day rolling average of daily water consumption (V_7), are implemented on the Ashburton water supply scheme as follows:

- (a) Level 0 to Level 1 when V_7 exceeds 15,000 m³ for 3 consecutive days
 - (b) Level 1 to Level 2 when V_7 exceeds 15,000 m³ for 5 consecutive days
 - (c) Level 2 to Level 3 when V_7 exceeds 15,000 m³ for 7 consecutive days
 - (d) Level 3 to Level 2 when V_7 falls below 15,000 m³ for 5 consecutive days
 - (e) Level 2 to Level 1 when V_7 falls below 15,000 m³ for 7 consecutive days
 - (f) Level 1 to Level 0 when V_7 falls below 15,000 m³ for 14 consecutive days
3. Level 4 or 5 restrictions are used for short term emergency management purposes and may be applied at any time, at the discretion of the Operations Manager.
4. The Ashburton water supply scheme shall be used as the model for the introduction of restrictions on all other applicable schemes.
5. Notwithstanding the above statements, water restrictions may be implemented on any scheme when environmental, operational and/or emergency conditions require, at the discretion of the Operations Manager.
6. The trigger values set out in Clause 2(a) - (f) shall be reviewed from time to time and may be amended as required, at the discretion of the Operations Manager. Any amendment of these values shall be reported to the next available meeting of Council.

Statutory Implications

The following clauses from the Ashburton District Council Bylaw 1999 are applicable –

- 2104.2.1 *The Council may impose such restrictions as it may consider necessary or appropriate in respect of on demand supply or restricted flow supply to manage fluctuations in supply or demand of water due to seasonal or other factors.*
- 2104.2.2 *In imposing restrictions under clause 2104.2.1 (but without limiting the generality of that clause), the Council may impose the following restrictions:*
- (a) *prohibiting the use of water through a hose unless the hose is held in a person's hand at the time that water is flowing through it; and*
 - (b) *prohibiting of the use of sprinklers or fixed garden irrigation systems.*
- 2104.2.3 *A restriction imposed by the Council under clause 2104.2.1 shall be publicly notified.*
- 2104.4 *Emergencies: During an emergency, the Council may restrict or prohibit the use of water for any specified purpose, for any specified period, and for any or all of its consumers without publicly notifying the restriction or prohibition.*

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