

COUNCIL POLICY



Policy name	Water Conservation Policy
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Abstract

The key objective of a regional water restriction is to have a base set of water restriction rules that are uniform across Namoi Councils to reduce confusion in the community and allow for a consistent and simplified communication process across the region.

The permanent water conservation measures are generally a common sense water efficient usage guideline that helps to minimise water wastage during non-drought periods.

Dates	Policy or amendment approved	16 Apr 2014
	Policy or amendment takes effect	16 Apr 2014
	Policy is due for review (up to 4 years)	01 Apr 2018
Endorsed by	Gunnedah Shire Council Resolution number: 16.04/14	
Approved by	Gunnedah Shire Council, at its Ordinary Meeting of Council held 16 April 2014 Resolution number: 16.04/14	
Policy Custodian	Manager Water Services	
Relevant to	Gunnedah Shire Council Residents	
Superseded Policies	Gunnedah Water Restriction Policy – 8 December 2002 Minute 145.2	
Related documents	Policy Framework Best Practice Water and Sewerage Management	
Related legislation	Local Government Act 1993	
File number	776946	

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 Namoi Water Utilities Alliance engaged Hunter Water Australia (HWA) in 2013 to undertake a review of existing water restriction policies that are currently applied across the Namoi Councils and establish comparisons with other NSW regional Councils and the major water authorities in Eastern Australia.

A regional water restriction policy has been prepared and was generally accepted by all Councils at the recent Namoi Water Alliance technical Advisory Committee meeting. This policy was recommended for adoption by all members of the Namoi Water Alliance. The proposed approach was to identify a base set of restriction rules that all Councils could agree to and adopt, before integrating them into their current water restriction policies.

The key objective of adopting a regional water restriction is to have a base set of water restriction rules that are uniform across Namoi Councils to reduce confusion in the community and allow for a consistent and simplified communication process across the region.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to all Gunnedah Shire Council residents.

3. Definitions

- 3.1 [Definitions]. *List key definitions, particularly if they relate to compliance with legislation, or attach a glossary as an appendix. Keep in mind that industry terms or terms with a particular meaning within the industry may require definition. Any acronyms to be used should also be identified and defined.*

4. Policy principles

- 4.1 A regional water restriction policy was accepted by all Councils at the Namoi Water Alliance technical Advisory Committee meeting. The proposed approach was to identify a base set of restriction rules that all Councils could agree to and adopt, before integrating them into their current water restriction policies.

The key objective of adopting a regional water restriction is to have a base set of water restriction rules that are uniform across Namoi Councils to reduce confusion in the community and allow for a consistent and simplified communication process across the region.

The existing Gunnedah Shire Water Restriction Policy has been updated to include the permanent level.

The new rules also include suggested residential usage reduction targets. As well as communicating these targets to the community, it is recommended that these reduction targets are used to determine system based usage targets for the purpose of monitoring daily water usage during drought periods based on water production data.

The triggers for the various levels of water restrictions are system dependant and will therefore be different for most towns across the region.

5. Policy statement

CATEGORY	P	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5
	Permanent	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Emergency
RESIDENTIAL GARDENS & LAWN WATERING	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers restricted except between 6-8am & 6-10pm during daylight saving time and 6-8am & 5-9pm during EST	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned except between 6-7am & 6-7pm	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned Hand held hoses restricted to 2hrs per day	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers and hand held hoses banned Buckets restricted to 2 hrs per day	No watering at any time	No watering at any time
WASHING DOWN (including vehicles)	Wash down hard/paved surfaces with high pressure hose only	Wash down hard/paved surfaces with high pressure hose only	Hoses restricted to 2 hrs per day	No hoses. Buckets restricted to 2 hrs per day	No watering at any time	No watering at any time
SWIMMING POOLS & SPAS - PRIVATE	Use pool cover to reduce evaporation	Permit required for filling pools over 2000 litres	Permit required for filling pools over 2000 litres. Top up via hoses only 2 hrs per day	Permit required for filling pools over 2000 litres. Top up via hoses only 2 hrs per day	Filling and Topping up Prohibited	Filling and Topping up Prohibited

CATEGORY	P	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5
	Permanent	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Emergency
PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS	No Restriction	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned except for 6 hrs/day	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned except for 3 hrs/day	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned Hand held hoses only	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned Hand held hoses allowed 3hrs/day	No watering at any time
PUBLIC SPORTS GROUNDS AND	No Restriction	Main Parks to be watered at night	Limited watering only	Auto sprinklers 1hr max/line. Every second night Hand held hoses in other parks only.	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned Hand held hoses allowed 3hrs/day	No watering at any time
BOWLING/GOLF CLUBS	No Restriction	No Restriction	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned except for 2 hrs/day	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned except for 2 hrs every 2nd day	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned Hand held hoses allowed 1hr/day	No watering at any time
SCHOOLS AND HEALTH CARE PREMISES REQUIRING DAY STAFF FOR MAINTENANCE	No Restriction	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned except for 6 hrs/day	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned except for 3 hrs/day	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned Hand held hoses only	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned Hand held hoses allowed 3hrs/day	No watering at any time
NURSERIES ETC	No Restriction	No Restriction	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned except for 4hrs/day	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned except for 2 hrs/ day	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned. Hand held hoses allowed 2hr/day	Fixed Hoses, Sprinklers & Hand held hoses Banned Bucket Water Only
AUTO FLUSH TOILETS	No Restriction	No Restriction	On Timers Banned. On Demand okay	On Timers Banned. On Demand okay	On Timers Banned. On Demand okay	On Timers Banned. On Demand okay
COMMERCIAL CAR WASH	No Restriction	No Restriction	No Restriction	Time Restricted by Negotiation	Time Restricted by Negotiation	Car wash closed
TRUCK WASH AT SALEYARDS	No Restriction	No Restriction	No Restriction	Time Restricted by Negotiation	Banned except as required by law	Closed
INDUSTRIAL USE (MAJOR)	No Restriction	No Restriction	No Restriction	Restricted by Negotiation	Restricted by Negotiation	Special Council Permission by Negotiation
WATER CARTAGE FROM STANDPIPE	No Restriction	No Restriction	No Restriction	Domestic Use Only	Domestic Use Only during working Hours	Domestic Use Only during working Hours

CATEGORY	P	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5
	Permanent	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Emergency
Residential consumption target (% reduction)t		5%	15%	25%	35%	50%

6. Accountability, roles and responsibilities

6.1 Policy Custodian

Director Infrastructure Services

6.2 Responsible Officer

Manager, Water Services

7. Acknowledgements

- 7.1 Hunter Water Australia
Namoi Regional Councils

8. Version control and change history

Date	Version	Approved by & resolution no.	Amendment
30 June 2014	1	16.04/14	Base set of water restriction rules that are uniform across Namoi Councils.