

1 Policy History

Revision No.	Council Meeting Date	Minute No.	Adoption Date
1	12/07/2011	0222	12/07/2011
2	26/08/2014	0267	26/08/2014
3	09/06/2020	20/156	17/07/2020
4	09/07/2024	24/182	08/08/2024

2 Policy Objective

- 2.1 To provide an operational framework to manage the risk of failure to supply water in circumstances where low rainfall, water supply system failures or water quality issues restrict or limit the ability of Council to supply and deliver water.
- 2.2 To guide the public in the expectations and requirements of Council when water conservation measures are imposed.

3 Policy Statement

3.1 Scope

These measures provides a graduated scale of controls to promote water demand management to ensure good water conservation practices within the Griffith City Council Local Government area.

It applies to all water supplied by Griffith City Council through its reticulated water supply systems (both potable and non-potable). It does not apply to alternative water sources.

3.2 Water Conservation

Council has adopted the “Drought Management Plan- November 2008” document prepared by HydroScience Consulting.

The implementation of water conservation measures will consider the following matters:

- Restrictions placed on High or General Security water supply by the NSW Office of Water for the Murrumbidgee system
- Upstream dam status
- Comparative restriction levels in adjacent council areas
- Seasonal conditions

3.3 Public Information

Council will, by public notice, notify users to any water supply restrictions. This may be in the form of written advertisements in the local press. Additional radio, television and social media (eg. Facebook, website) coverage may be utilised.

In the case of emergencies, radio, television and social media (eg. Facebook, website) will be the main forms of communication to the general public.

3.4 Infringement Notice

Council's Compliance staff may issue infringement notices to individuals/corporations in breach of Council's adopted water conservation measures.

4 Definitions

In this document:

"Alternative Water Source" means water from a bore, dam, stream, canal or from a reticulated water system that is not connected to Griffith City Council's water supply.

"Approved or Approval or Permitted" means written approval has been received from Griffith City Council.

"Bucket" means any container, including a watering can, with a maximum capacity of 15 litres.

"Bucket Watering" means watering from a hand held bucket that is filled directly from a fixed tap and then carried to plants.

"Drip Irrigation System" is a surface or subsurface, manual or automatic system, that uses a dripper or emitter to water lawns or gardens.

"Domestic Use" means for internal (residential) household use.

"Fixed Sprinklers and Hoses" means a non moveable sprinkler or hose that is used for watering lawns and gardens.

"Garden" means any ground that has been cultivated and in which is situated trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables or vegetation of any kind; and includes plants in pots or tubs external to a dwelling, house or on a verandah.

"Hand Held Hose" means a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle and only held by hand.

"Licensed Person" means the holder of a current plumbers or drainers licence under the Plumbing and Drainage Act.

"Microspray Irrigation System" may be a manual or automatic lawn system that uses small sprays to irrigate lawns or gardens.

“Not Permitted” means water must not be taken from Council’s water supply but an alternate water source may be used.

“Non Fixed Sprinkler” is an above ground sprinkler that is attached to and supplied by a hose, used manually or automatically, with or without a timer to irrigate lawns or gardens.

“Odds and Evens Basis” means properties with an odd numbered street address are permitted to water on an odd numbered date of the week and properties with an even numbered street address are permitted to water on an even numbered date of the week. Properties without a street number are deemed to have an even numbered address.

“Soaker Hose” is a fixed or moveable hose with a series of small openings to water lawns or gardens.

“Water Demand Management” means the adoption of policies by a water service provider designed to influence the demand for water in ways that recognise the value of water as a community resource.

“Water Restrictions and Water Conservation Measures” means regulations introduced by the local water utility (LWU) to enforce restriction of water consumption to ensure that water supply can be maintained at levels consistent with good management practices, considering volume, quality or supply constraints.

“Watering System” is any automated system for the watering of lawns or gardens by any means.

“Water Toys” means any toy that is operated by running water supplied by a hose.

“Yenda Raw Water Users” means residents of Yenda on the dual water system.

Abbreviations

LWU - Local Water Utility

5 Exceptions

Council’s Director Utilities will consider written applications for variation to the adopted water conservation measures on a case by case basis.

If approved, conditions may stipulate a particular time, procedure or other variation to these measures. Council reserves the right to revoke or amend the conditional approval, giving seven (7) days written notice.

6 Legislation

Management of water supply in NSW is governed by the:

- Water Act 1912
- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulations 2021
- Water Management Act 2000

The Local Government Act, 1993 confers on Council the authority to construct, maintain, operate and repair infrastructure works for the supply of water within its supply district (the boundaries of the City).

The Water Management Act includes a number of processes and principles aimed at improvements to the health of the State's water resources, providing greater economic benefits and shared responsibility for water management.

The Water Act and Water Management Act have established a systematic approach to licensing the water supply for towns (or Local Water Utilities – LWUs), which specifies the amount of water that LWUs can extract.

In particular, the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 gives powers to a Water Authority to:

- **s137** – Restrict the purpose, time, method or quantity of water supply if there is a shortage
- **s144** – Cut off or restrict water supply
- **s159** – Prevent the waste or misuse of water

7 Related Documents

Nil

8 Directorate

Utilities