

COUNCIL POLICY



Policy name	Water Conservation
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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	13 December 2023
	Policy or amendment takes effect	13 January 2024
	Policy is due for review (up to 4 years)	13 December 2027
Endorsed by	Executive Leadership Team at its meeting held 28 November 2023	
Approved by	Gunnedah Shire Council, at its Ordinary Meeting of Council held 13 December 2023 Resolution number: 6.12/23	
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Superseded Policies	Gunnedah Water Restriction Policy, 8 December 2002 Minute 145.2	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	

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 A review of the regional water restriction policy was undertaken and was generally accepted by all Councils at the recent Namoi Unlimited technical Advisory Committee meeting. The review was on the benefit of Category P (Permeant) Restrictions, All Councils agreed that there was no benefit in having Category P as it is more of a recommendation than an enforceable restriction. This policy was recommended for adoption by all members of Namoi Unlimited Councils. The proposed approach was to identify a base set of restriction rules that all Councils could agree to and adopt.

The key objective of adopting a regional water restriction is to have a base set of water restriction rules that are uniform across Namoi Unlimited 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 Nil

4. Policy principles

- 4.1 A regional water restriction policy was accepted by all Councils at the Namoi Water Alliance Unlimited 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 Conservation 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 Unlimited Councils to reduce confusion in the community and allow for a consistent and simplified communication process across the region.

The existing Gunnedah Shire Water Conservation Policy has been updated to remove 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 dependent and will therefore be different for most towns across the region.

5. Policy statement

CATEGORY	LEVEL 1 Low	LEVEL 2 Moderate	LEVEL 3 High	LEVEL 4 Very High	LEVEL 5 Emergency
RESIDENTIAL GARDENS & LAWN WATERING	Fixed Hoses & Sprinklers Banned except between 6-8pm during DST Water between 5-7 all other times	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	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	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	LEVEL 1 Low	LEVEL 2 Moderate	LEVEL 3 High	LEVEL 4 Very High	LEVEL 5 Emergency
PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS	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	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	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	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	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	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	Time Restricted by Negotiation	Time Restricted by Negotiation	Car wash closed
TRUCK WASH AT SALEYARDS	No Restriction	No Restriction	Time Restricted by Negotiation	Banned except as required by law	Closed
INDUSTRIAL USE (MAJOR)	No Restriction	No Restriction	Restricted by Negotiation	Restricted by Negotiation	Special Council Permission by Negotiation
WATER CARTAGE FROM STANDPIPE	No Restriction	No Restriction	Domestic Use Only	Domestic Use Only during working Hours	Domestic Use Only during working Hours

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

6. Accountability, roles and responsibilities

6.1 Policy Custodian

Director of Infrastructure Services

7. Acknowledgements

- 7.1 Beca HH2O
Namoi Unlimited Councils

8. Version Control and Change History

Date	Version	Approved by & resolution no.	Amendment
June 2014	1	Ordinary Meeting 8 Dec 2002 Resolution 145.2	Base set of water restriction rules that are uniform across Namoi Councils.
Dec 2023	2	Ordinary Meeting 13 Dec 2023	Removal Of Category P in Water Conservation Policy