

Policy title	Water Restrictions
Responsible manager(s)	Director Infrastructure Services
Contact officer(s)	Division Manager Water and Sewer
Directorate	Infrastructure Services
Approval date	22 November 2022
Outcome area	1. Sustainable
Strategy	1.4 Work together in the management and use of our valuable sources
Delivery Program link	1.4.1 Provide a safe, reliable and sustainable water and sewer services, guided by the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy 1.4.2 Increase water security through construction of the Southern Water Supply Storage
Operational Plan link	1.4.1.2 Operate and maintain the town water supply stream 1.4.2.1 Commence the construction of the Southern Water Supply Storage/Dam

Purpose

It is normal practice in NSW to design water supply systems so that water restrictions should not be applied in more than 10% of years or for more than 5% of the time. That is, water supply headworks should be sized so that water restrictions are only necessary on average once every ten years and when applied should not be needed on average for longer than six months.

This is in recognition of the fact that:

- It is neither practical, economic nor environmentally responsible to provide “restriction free” water supply systems; and
- A trade-off is necessary between the security of supply i.e. the relative severity of restrictions, and the associated capital and operating costs.

Council’s water supply system has been designed in accordance with these parameters, and therefore we will need to implement water restrictions to secure supply during drought periods. There may also be times when, due to operational faults, the available stored water or the available capacity of supply is so limited that restrictions are necessary in isolated catchments of the water supply system.

Clause 137 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* allows for restrictions to be imposed if Council deems it necessary.

Policy aims

- Take such steps as are necessary to ensure the continued supply of potable water to consumers.
- Promote an integrated framework for dealing with water restrictions.
- Ensure consistency and fairness in the manner in which the Council deals with potable water consumers.
- Ensure compliance with legislative requirements under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

- Make the Council's policies and requirements for water restrictions readily accessible and understandable to the public.

Policy details

1	Application This policy applies to owners and occupiers of properties connected to Council’s potable water supply systems.
2	Legislation This policy ensures is consistent with the requirement of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> and the <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2005</i> .

Implementation

Requirements	Responsibility
<p>1 Drought Management Plan In times of drought, this policy will be implemented by following the <i>Eurobodalla Water Supply Drought Management Plan</i>. The <i>Drought Management Plan</i> provides for various severities of water restrictions to be imposed on consumers based on water storage levels and consumer type. The General Manager or Director Infrastructure Services may vary the adopted trigger levels after taking into account seasonal water demand variations and the medium or long-term weather forecast.</p>	<p>Division Manager Water and Sewer</p>
<p>2 Operational Restrictions The General Manager or Director Infrastructure Services may authorise water restrictions in isolated catchments of the water supply system if, due to operational faults, the available stored water or the available capacity of supply is so limited that restrictions are necessary. Water restrictions introduced in those catchments shall be at a level considered necessary to achieve the required reduction in demand. As soon as practicable following water restrictions being applied due to operational issues, a report detailing the reasons for the water restrictions, the duration or intended duration of restrictions and the numbers of consumers affected shall be reported to the Council.</p>	<p>Division Manager Water and Sewer</p>
<p>3 Enforcement Council’s rangers are delegated to issue penalties for non-compliance with water restrictions under section 637 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i></p>	<p>Council rangers</p>
<p>4 Staff Under supervision, relevant Council staff will be responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented appropriately within their work area, after they have received appropriate training to do so.</p>	<p>Council officers</p>
<p>5 Concerns Public concerns communicated to Council in relation to this policy will be recorded on Council’s records system and handled in accordance with Council’s Customer Service or Complaints policy. These records will be used to determine any follow-up actions and analyse the history of reported public concerns.</p>	<p>Council officers</p>

6	Consultation Any consultation deemed necessary will occur as required with key stakeholders, which may include (but not be limited to) the community, other agencies, statutory and industry bodies. Public submissions regarding this policy are invited for consideration during the exhibition period.	As applicable
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Review

This policy may also be reviewed and updated as necessary when legislation requires it; or Council's functions, structure or activities change; or when technological advances or new systems change the way that Council manages water restrictions.

The policy will be automatically revoked at the expiration of twelve months after the declaration of the poll for the next general NSW local government election, unless Council revokes it sooner.

Note: *The next general local government election is expected to be held in September 2024.*

Reviews of the effectiveness of this policy could include the following:

Performance indicator	Data source(s)
Delivery Program/ Operational Plan outcomes achieved	Council reporting
Concerns or complaints registered	Council records
Customer feedback, survey responses	Surveys
Internal or external review	Audit

Governance

This policy should be read in conjunction with any related legislation, codes of practice, relevant internal policies, and guidelines.

Related legislation and policies

Name	Link
Related Council Policy or Code of Practice	https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/council-policies
<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1993-030
<i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2005</i>	https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2005-0487

Related external references

Name	Link
Office of Local Government	www.olg.nsw.gov.au

Supporting documents

Name	Link
Eurobodalla Shire Council Drought Management Plan	https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/council/plans-and-reporting/plans-and-strategies

Change history

Version	Approval date	Approved by	Minute	File	Change
1	22 Sep 2009	Council	09/291	E09.3418 E06.0113	Policy commenced
2	10 Sep 2013	Council	13/272	E13.7095 E06.0113	Reviewed and updated (start of new Council term)
3	25 Jul 2017	Council	17/237	E16.0297 E06.0113	Reviewed and updated (start of new Council term)
4	22 Nov 2022	Council	22/313	S004-T00060	Reviewed and updated (start of new Council term) Report GMR22/111

Internal use

Responsible officer		Director Infrastructure Services		Approved by	Council
Minute	22/313	Report	GMR22/111	Effective date	22 Nov 2022
File	S004-T00060	Review date	22 Nov 2022	Pages	4