

2247 Drought Management Urban Water

Governance Policy



PURPOSE

- 1) This policy provides the mechanism under which North Burnett Regional Council introduces and manages restrictions on urban water usage under the authority granted by Division 3 of the Water (Supply Safety and Reliability) Act 2008.
- 2) It heads a framework for consistent and appropriate drought management provisions within Council's urban water supply schemes and is in alignment with the Water Act 2000, Chapter 2A, Part 2 Sections 352 and 353.

SCOPE

- 3) This policy applies to all reticulated urban water supply schemes owned and/or operated by North Burnett Regional Council, WSPID 490.
- 4) It is binding on all customers of reticulated urban water supply schemes and forms part of the service contract between Council and its customers.

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Act	means <i>Water (Supply Safety and Reliability) Act 2008</i>
Council	means North Burnett Regional Council
WSP	means Registered Water Supply Provider

POLICY

OBJECTIVES

- 5) The objectives of this policy are to:
 - a) Ensure efficient and sustainable outdoor water use;
 - b) Ensure sufficient water remains in Council's water allocation for essential indoor and firefighting uses;
 - c) Ensure equitable use of the source water supply to maintain consistent water pressure and quality throughout the reticulation network for all customers; and
 - d) Ensure the long-term viability of Council water schemes.

POLICY STATEMENT

- 7) Water restrictions shall be set for all water supply schemes owned and/or operated by Council in accordance with the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, Sections 41-43 – Power to Restrict Water Supply.
- 8) Monitoring and compliance shall be carried out in accordance with:
 - a. Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, Sections 45-48 - Authorised Persons;
 - b. Water Act 2000, Chapter 2A, Part 2 Sections 352 and 353.
 - c. Local Government Act 2009, Section 125–148 – Powers of Authorised Persons;
 - d. State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2000, Section 8C; and
 - e. State Penalties Enforcement Regulation, Sch. 5.

PRINCIPLES

Emergencies

- 9) Notwithstanding prescribed levels, Council may impose water restrictions in extenuating circumstances to maintain water supplies for firefighting and sanitary purposes.

Notice of Service Provider Water Restrictions

- 10) Prior to the introduction of a water restriction under section 43 of the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, appropriate notice shall be given to affected customers by Council.

Alternative Watering Times

11) A resident, business or organisation may make written application for alternative watering times, along with supporting information, for consideration by the Water and Wastewater Manager.

Exemptions

- 12) The imposed water restrictions do not apply to the following:
- Use of water by fixed or temporary systems not drawing water from the reticulated town water supply, such as a property bore or rainwater tank etc.
 - Use of grey water.
 - Use of water to prevent material risks associated with an accident, fire or hazard to health and safety or the environment.

Authorised Persons

13) Compliance monitoring of water restrictions shall be carried out by a person authorised by the service provider under the Local Government Act 2009, Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 and the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999. All authorised persons shall carry an authorised person identity card whilst undertaking compliance monitoring and shall present the identity card for inspection if requested to do so.

Infringement Notices

14) Infringement notices will be issued after one (1) warning on level 1-3 restrictions and on a first offence on Level 4 and 5 restrictions.

Penalties

15) In accordance with the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, Schedule 1, the penalty applicable for contravention of Section 43(5) of the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 is:

Offence	Individual Penalty Units	Corporation Penalty Units
All offences	3	15

16) Under Level 4 and 5 restrictions, if a connection exceeds the daily limit (per day or average day) this will constitute a breach and Council may restrict water flow and/or pressure with a restriction device where such a breach occurs.

Reissue of Infringement Notices

17) If the property owner listed on an original infringement notice is not responsible for the water restriction breach and the offender is known, the infringement notice may be reissued if a statutory declaration is provided to Council stating the full name and address of the offender and the details of the original infringement notice.

Restriction Triggers

18) Triggers will apply by town as set out in Procedure 247, Drought Management Procedure for Urban Water.

19) Restrictions will be actioned by the Water and Wastewater Manager, in consultation with General Manager Works, instigating restriction levels as triggered. The Chief Executive Officer and Councillors shall be advised before public notifications commence.

Restriction Levels

20) Restrictions will apply by level in all towns as set out in Procedure 247, Drought Management Procedure for Urban Water.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

21) Applicable legislation and regulation:

- a) *Local Government Act 2009, Section 125–148 – Powers of Authorised Persons;*
- b) *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, Sections 45-48 - Authorised Persons;*
- c) *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, Sections 41-43 – Power to Restrict Water Supply;*
- d) *State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999;*
- e) *State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, Section 5 (1) – Administering Authority for Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008; and*
- f) *State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, Schedule 1.*

RELATED DOCUMENTS

22) Related documents are:

- a) Drinking Water Quality Management Plan
- b) Drought Management Procedure for Urban Water

RESPNSIBLE OFFICER

Chief Executive Officer

APPROVAL DATE

20 October 2021

REVIEW DATE

20 October 2022

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Meeting	Approval Date	History
1	Policy and Planning	6 October 2015	New
2	General	20 October 2021	Revised