

POLICY

Purpose:

This policy outlines the Gundagai Council's requirements for the introduction maintenance and removal of water restrictions on the Gundagai Local Water Utility (Gundagai LWU).

Relevant Legislation:

Water Management Act 2000
Local Government Act 1993
Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
Water Licence allocation

Policy Statement:

Restrictions are a necessary management tool for a well managed water supply. The Gundagai Water Supply shall be designed to minimise the need for water restrictions due to operational constraints. In times of prolonged drought, water restrictions may be necessary due to the limited supply of water available in the Murrumbidgee River.

To make sure that the residents of Gundagai do not use more than our fair share of the available water, the Gundagai LWU will encourage water conservation and demand management. One of the methods will be the selective imposition of water restrictions. Through the efficient use of water and provision of adequate infrastructure the impact of restrictions will be minimised.

Gundagai Shire Council delegates authority to the Mayor and the General Manager to jointly introduce, upgrade or revoke water restrictions as required. Changes to water restrictions will be reported to the following Council meeting.

Gundagai LWU will carefully consider the needs of all consumers before imposing or upgrading water restrictions, especially the needs of those who rely on water for commercial operations and for matters of health and safety.

Gundagai LWU will continue to work with other regional Water Utilities to take advantage of any marketing and promotions on water restrictions. Gundagai LWU will also work towards standardising water restriction levels throughout the Region.

A variety of communication strategies will be implemented to ensure that all consumers of water are made aware of any restrictions imposed from time to time and to implement water efficiency strategies.

Consumers who breach water restrictions, either on a regular or a gross or flagrant basis will have penalties imposed that may include a fine and/or the restriction of water flow to their property. (Sect 637 Local Government Act 1993, Reg.144 Local Government (General) Regulation).

Actions required because of the introduction, or variation to water restrictions will be appropriately resourced by the General Manager to ensure that the appropriate level of restriction can be implemented.

Procedures:

This Policy authorises the Mayor, General Manager and Director of Engineering to develop water restriction procedures.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Date Policy Adopted by Council: | 12 June 2007 |
| Authorising Signature of General Manager: | |
| Minute Number: | 211/2007 |
| Date of Amendment/s | |
| Minute Number/s of Amendment/s | |