

## PROCEDURE

### **1. Introduction:**

This Procedure details how the Gundagai Local Water Utility (Gundagai LWU) implements Water Restrictions for the purpose of water conservation, demand management and drought management. The Mayor and General manager have been delegated authority to implement and vary water restriction levels in accordance with the Council's Policy.

### **2. Introducing a Level of Water Restriction:**

The following table indicates when a level of water restriction may be introduced

<b>Trigger</b>	<b>Restriction Level introduced</b>
The storage in Blowering Dam or Burrinjuck Dam falls below 50%	1
The storage in Blowering Dam or Burrinjuck Dam falls below 30%	2
The storage in Blowering and Burrinjuck Dams fall below 20% or Water allocation reduced to 50%	3
The storage in Blowering and Burrinjuck Dams fall below 10 % or Water allocation reduced to 30%	4
The Murrumbidgee River flow falls below 200 Mgl/day for a period 7 days or more or Water Allocation reduced to 25%	5
The Murrumbidgee River Flow falls below 100 Mgl/day for 7 days or more or Water allocation reduced to <20%	6

The Mayor and General Manager have delegated authority to impose a Restriction Level different to the above Trigger levels if it is considered necessary.

### **3. Revoking a Level of Water Restriction:**

Revoking the water restriction levels shall be the reverse of the above provided the dam levels or flows are likely to be sustained in the immediate future.

### **4. Variation of Water Restriction Level:**

The Mayor and General Manager shall determine which water restriction level will be implemented. This will be reported to the next Council meeting.

### **5. Communication Strategies:**

Whenever a level of water restriction is introduced or varied, the General Manager will arrange for appropriate advertising to be placed. During the period of the restrictions the advertising will be repeated monthly.

The current level of water restrictions will be displayed on Council's website and on signs displayed at the approaches to town.

For level 3 and above radio and television ads will be placed as determined by the General Manager. For level 4 and above a letter box drop of every house and business in the Gundagai LWU area will be undertaken. The General Manager may elect to undertake a letterbox drop for lower level restrictions if he considers that it would be desirable and could enhance compliance.

Whenever water restrictions are revoked or down graded, similar advertising will be undertaken as deemed appropriate by the General Manager.

## **6. Dealing with Breaches of Water Restrictions**

Consumers who are detected breaching water restrictions which are in place at that time will be dealt with as follows:

- a) For the first observed breach, a warning notice from the General Manager
- b) For a second observed breach, a Penalty Infringement Notice will be issued under S.637 of the Local Government Act 1993.
- c) For breaches in excess of two – both the appropriate fine as in b) above and a restriction of water flow to the property, in accordance with Regulation 144(f) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, will be the penalty.

Gundagai LWU will utilise the services of the Infringement Processing Bureau for the purpose of processing all fines issued.

## **7. Resourcing Activities associated with Water Restrictions**

The General Manager will allocate sufficient skilled personnel and other resources to ensure that all procedures are carried out in a timely and professional manner.

## **8. Restriction Philosophy**

The current restriction triggers are based on minimising our impact on the Murrumbidgee River system during times of drought and ensuring that in the event that the river drops to minimal flow, supply for essential use will be available and last as long as possible.

## **9. Restriction Levels**

Details of Restriction Levels are shown in APPENDIX 1

The Mayor and General Manager may vary Restriction Level descriptions if considered necessary.

## **10. Exemptions**

Exemptions may be available for the various domestic, commercial or industrial purposes. The General Manager will determine if the application has merit and if adequate supply is available prior to issuing an exemption. Consumers must have a

valid exemption or they shall be liable to a penalty. An Exemption Permit form is attached in APPENDIX 2

**11. Public Parks, Sporting Grounds, Public Swimming Pool and School Grounds**

Irrigation water shall be limited as shown below. Sprinklers shall be controlled to ensure that water is not wasted on paved areas or roads.

<b>Level</b>	<b>Permissible use</b>
Level 1	No restriction on fixed irrigation sprinklers provided that they are on a timer and controlled so that there is no pooling or runoff
Level 2	Fixed irrigation sprinklers, night time use on a timer, controlled so that there is no pooling or runoff
Level 3	Fixed irrigation sprinklers, night time use on a timer, controlled so that there is no pooling or runoff, no more than 3 times per week.
Level 4	Fixed irrigation sprinklers, night time use on a timer, controlled so that there is no pooling or runoff, no more than once per week.
Level 5	No irrigation permitted
Level 6	No irrigation permitted. No topping up of Public Swimming Pool.(May need to close for operational or health reasons.)

**APPENDIX 1****WATER RESTRICTION LEVELS**

The following restrictions are for all domestic, commercial and industrial consumers in the Gundagai LWU.

- Level 1            Voluntary
- no watering with fixed hoses or sprinklers between restriction times
  - Washing of vehicles on lawns with a hose provided the use of a hose with a trigger cut off nozzle
  - Water runoff onto roads or gutters banned
  - Council Ranger will advise and warn anyone not co-operating.
- Level 2            Mandatory
- Fixed hoses and sprinklers banned between restriction times\*
  - Washing of vehicles on lawns with a hose permitted provided the use a trigger cut off nozzle
  - Hosing of paths and driveways banned
  - Water runoff onto roads or gutters banned
- Level 3            Mandatory
- Fixed Hoses and sprinklers banned
  - Odds and evens relating to street number and date. No watering on 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - One hand held hose per property before or after restriction times\*
  - Fixed micro sprays and dripping systems maximum of 15 minutes before or after restriction times\*
  - Washing of vehicles on lawns with a hose permitted provided the use a trigger cut off nozzle before or after restriction times\*. Washing with bucket at other times.
  - Hosing of paths and driveways banned
  - Water runoff onto roads or gutters banned
  - Filling or topping up of Swimming Pools only permitted if cover is fitted
- Level 4            Mandatory
- Fixed Hoses and sprinklers banned
  - Odds and evens relating to street number and date. No watering on 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - One hand held hose per property before or after restriction times\* for a maximum of ½ hour
  - Fixed micro sprays and dripping systems maximum of 15 minutes before or after restriction times\*
  - Washing of vehicles on lawns with buckets.
  - Hosing of paths and driveways banned
  - Water runoff onto roads or gutters banned
  - Filling or topping up of Swimming Pools banned.
- Level 5            Mandatory
- Outside use of hoses banned
  - Bucket watering only
  - Washing vehicles banned
  - Limitations placed on commercial and industrial usage
- Level 6            Mandatory
- No outside use of town water
  - Use of recycled grey water, rainwater tank water or bore water only for outside use
  - Limitations placed on internal domestic use
  - Limitations placed on commercial and industrial use.

**\*Restriction Times      1 October to 31 March 9am to 6pm**  
**1 April to 30 September 9 am to 4 pm**

**APPENDIX 2**

**GUNDAGAI SHIRE COUNCIL**

**WATER RESTRICTION EXEMPTION PERMIT**

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address that the exemption applies to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Commercial/Industrial \_\_\_\_\_

Residential \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Details of Exemption \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Limitations \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ General Manager

Date exemption in force from: \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_