



1. Intent of Policy

To provide guidelines or water-use rules for the management and implementation of restriction levels where consumption needs to be reduced due to drought conditions.

2. Scope of Policy

This policy will apply to all water supply customers of Oberon Council. Water restrictions are mandatory and enforceable under the Local Government Act, 1993 and the Local Government (Water Services) Regulation 1999, with penalties for breaches.

3. Guidelines

Levels of Water Restrictions

The table below shows the water-use rules for the 7 levels of water restrictions.

| Oberon Dam Level | Level | Restriction policy | Objective |
|------------------|-------|---|--|
| 50-40% | 1. | Sprinklers and fixed hoses are banned between 8am to 4pm. | Raise awareness of emerging drought and limit outside water use |
| 40-25% | 2. | Sprinklers and fixed hoses are banned. Micro-sprays for 15 minutes and hand held hoses for 2 hours every second day, outside the hours of 8am to 4pm, on odd or even days matching house numbering system. | Reduce non-essential use of water and reduce impact on Oberon Dam. |
| 25-20% | 3. | Sprinklers and fixed hoses banned. Micro-sprays for 15 minutes and hand held hoses for 1 hour every second day, outside the hours of 8am and 4pm, on odd or even days matching house numbering system. | Reduce non-essential use of water and reduce impact on Oberon Dam. |
| 20-15% | 4. | Sprinklers and fixed hoses banned. Micro-sprays for 15 minutes and hand held hoses for ½ hour every second day, outside the hours of 8am and 4pm, on odd or even days matching house numbering system. Filling and topping up of private swimming pools is prohibited except with bore or tank water. | Reduce non-essential use of water and reduce impact on Oberon Dam. |

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| 15-10% | 5. | Use of sprinklers, micro-sprays, fixed and hand held hoses banned. Gardens can be watered by buckets only. Filling and topping up of private swimming pools is prohibited except with bore or tank water. | Reduce non-essential use of water and reduce impact on Oberon Dam. |
| 10-5% | 6. | Use of sprinklers, micro-sprays, fixed and hand held hoses banned. Gardens can be watered by buckets only. Filling and topping up of private swimming pools is prohibited except with bore or tank water. | Reduce non-essential use of water and reduce impact on Oberon Dam. |
| Below 5% | 7. Emergency Water Supply Management | All external use of water banned. | Eliminate non-essential use of water. |

Management & Implementation

Dam Levels will be the trigger to determine when water restrictions are needed and appropriate levels.

The General Manager is the delegated authority to implement and revoke water restrictions.

All Councillors and Council staff are to be informed in advance of the introduction, varying or lifting of water restrictions.

The public is to be informed of water restrictions via:

- Notices and media releases in local newspapers
- Radio broadcasts
- Council’s web page

Variation applications

All requests for variations must be in writing and directed to the Technical Services Department.

No variations will be effective until the Technical Services Director has approved the written application and returned a “Water Restrictions – Approval for Variation”, signed by the General Manager.

Enforcement

The following procedure is to be followed when a breach is reported or observed:

- First-time offenders reported or observed to be in breach of water restrictions will be contacted for an explanation. If found to be wilful/negligent in the use of water contrary to Council notice, details will be recorded on a register.
- Second-time offences will result in the issue of an official caution notice and a warning that a third offence will result in a fine.
- A third offence will result in the issue of an official Penalty Infringement Notice and fine.
- Further offences will result in a water restriction device being applied to the meter.

This procedure does not preclude Council from issuing a Penalty Infringement Notice and fine at the first or second offence where it is deemed appropriate.

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| Approving Authority | Oberon Council |
| Contact | Technical Services Director |
| Approval | 16 January 2007: Item B11, Minute 29 17 February 2009: Item B3, Minute 13 19 May 2009: Business without notice, Minute 30 15 December 2009, Item B1 resolution 15. 18 June 2019, Item 13.07 Resolution 19 180619 |
| Revision Date | June 2021 |
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