Conserve our water

Water usage during restrictions

Watering time determined by Restriction Level (see table overleaf):

- Water use outside the home between 4pm-9am every 2nd day (based on odd or even calendar days matching your house number).
- No domestic water use outside the home on the 31st day of the month.
- Sprinklers and fixed hoses are banned.
- Hand held hoses to be fitted with a water cut-off trigger or control nozzle.
- Use a broom, leaf blower or bucket to clean driveways, paved areas walls and roofs – no chemicals or cleaning products are to be used on driveways, paths or hardstand areas.
- Watering cans and buckets can be used at any time.
- **Car and boat washing** (on lawn area). Washing can occur with a bucket and rinsing with one hand-held hose.
- **Boat motor flushing** can occur for 5 minutes on lawn area only on day of use.
- **New Turf** – exemption forms for establishing new turf are available online or from Council offices.
- At Level 4 or Emergency level – no external use of water.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WATER restriction level</th>
<th>Trigger</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COUNCIL discou</strong>rages unattended hoses between the hours of 9am and 4pm.</td>
<td>&gt;70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEVEL 1 MODERATE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Water sprinklers and fixed hoses are <strong>banned</strong>. Hand held hoses – 1 hour only after 4pm and before 9am. Includes garden or pool top-up.</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEVEL 2 HIGH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Water sprinklers and fixed hoses are <strong>banned</strong>. Hand held hoses – 30 minutes only after 4pm and before 9am. Includes garden or pool top-up.</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LEVEL 3 VERY HIGH</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Banned</strong> – All outside use of water sprinklers, fixed hoses and micro-sprays. Hand held hoses – 10 minutes after 4pm and before 9am. Use of buckets any time.</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEVEL 4 SEVERE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NO</strong> external use of taps, hoses and sprinklers, including hand-held hoses.</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EMERGENCY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As directed by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Trigger Points are based on % of combined storage in both Port Macquarie and Cowarra Dams.

For water saving tips and more information, including commercial restrictions, please visit pmhc.nsw.gov.au/water or call (02) 6581 8111. Follow us on Facebook.

pmhc.nsw.gov.au/water
Conserving and protecting our water supply

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council encourages the efficient use of water and reclaimed water. Water conservation measures are simple, practical, everyday ways for residents to help lessen the impact on our drinking water supplies and our environment. Everyday water saving measures are a key part of Council’s ongoing initiative to encourage efficient water use and ensure a secure water supply.

TIPS FOR CONSERVING WATER
It’s as easy as:

1. Watering gardens and lawns
   > After 4pm and before 9am.
   > Using a cut-off trigger nozzle on all hoses.
   > Watering-cans and buckets can be used at any time.

2. Cleaning driveways, paths and hardstand areas
   > Brooms, vacuum cleaners or air blowers to be used to remove loose material.
   > No chemicals or cleaning products to be used.
   > Hoses should have:
     – An approved water efficient nozzle or high-pressure cleaner, fitted with a water cut-off trigger or control nozzle, is used; or
     – Required as a result of accident or emergency.

3. Cleaning vehicles, houses, boats & outboard motors
   > Allowed at any time on lawn areas, using a bucket and cut-off trigger nozzle on hose.
   > Applies to both private and commercial use.

4. Swimming pools and spas
   > Filling and topping up permitted at any time, but please monitor at all times to prevent overflow and water waste.

5. Commercial, building and landscaping industries
   > Watering systems to be used after 4pm and before 9am.
   > Hoses must be fitted with a water cut-off trigger or control nozzle.
   > Dust suppression permitted with recycled water only.
   > No restriction on commercial market gardens and plant nurseries.

HOW TO CHECK YOUR BILL
The Water Usage Tracker is located on the back of your water bill. It is an easy way for residents to monitor how much water they use each quarter, and whether or not they can improve water efficiency and avoid paying the higher rate per kilolitre.

The introduction of water restriction levels is based upon a range of factors including:

> Available flows in the Hastings River at Koree Island,
> Combined storage levels in Council’s Port Macquarie and Cowarra off-creek storage dams and
> Long term weather forecasts.

While all of these factors are taken into consideration, it is the combined storage of the off-creek storage dams (as a percentage of full supply capacity) that actually trigger the decision to implement water restrictions.

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