



This is Whizzy and his fans at Warnervale Fair in March 2009.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

15 April 2009



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MEETING NOTICE

The EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
of Wyong Shire Council
will be held in the Council Chamber,
Wyong Civic Centre, Hely Street, Wyong on
WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2009 at 7.00 pm,
for the transaction of the business listed below:

OPENING PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

1 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

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Kerry Yates
GENERAL MANAGER

To the Extraordinary Meeting

1.1 Disclosures of Interest

TRIM REFERENCE: F2009/00008 - D01881418

AUTHOR: ED

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the *Local Government Act, 1993* regulate the way in which Councillors and nominated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public trust.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussions, voting on that matter, and require that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillors now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by Council at this meeting.

2.1 Water Restrictions

TRIM REFERENCE: F2004/06808 - D01881331

AUTHOR: GC

SUMMARY

Reports on storage levels, water consumption, seasonal outlook for rainfall and temperature, and assesses the most appropriate level of water restrictions.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 ***That Council commence the amended Level 2b restrictions as detailed at Attachment 2 on 3 May 2009.***
- 2 ***That Council discontinue the current water banking scheme.***

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 18 February 2009, the Gosford Wyong Councils' Water Authority:

"RESOLVED unanimously on the motion of Mr Wilson and SECONDED by Mr Yates:

That the current water restrictions remain and the matter of water restrictions be referred to the proposed joint meeting of the two Councils and this be held as soon as possible.

FOR: CR FREEWATER, CR GRAHAM, CR LATELLA, CR MCNAMARA, MR WILSON,
MR WILLIAMS, CR SYMINGTON, MR YATES

AGAINST: NIL"

Wyong Shire Council at its meeting held on the 25 February 2009:

"RESOLVED unanimously on the motion of Councillor EATON and seconded by Councillor BEST:

- 1 *That Council receive the minutes of the Gosford-Wyong Councils' Water Authority Board meeting held on 18 February 2009 and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.*
- 2 *That Council reconsider item 3.3 – Rainwater Tank Rebate Program at the Joint Meeting with Gosford City Council in light of the new Commonwealth Government Water Tank Rebate.*

FOR: COUNCILLORS BEST, EATON, GRAHAM, McBRIDE, McNAMARA, MATTHEWS,
SYMINGTON, VINCENT, WEBSTER AND WYNN.

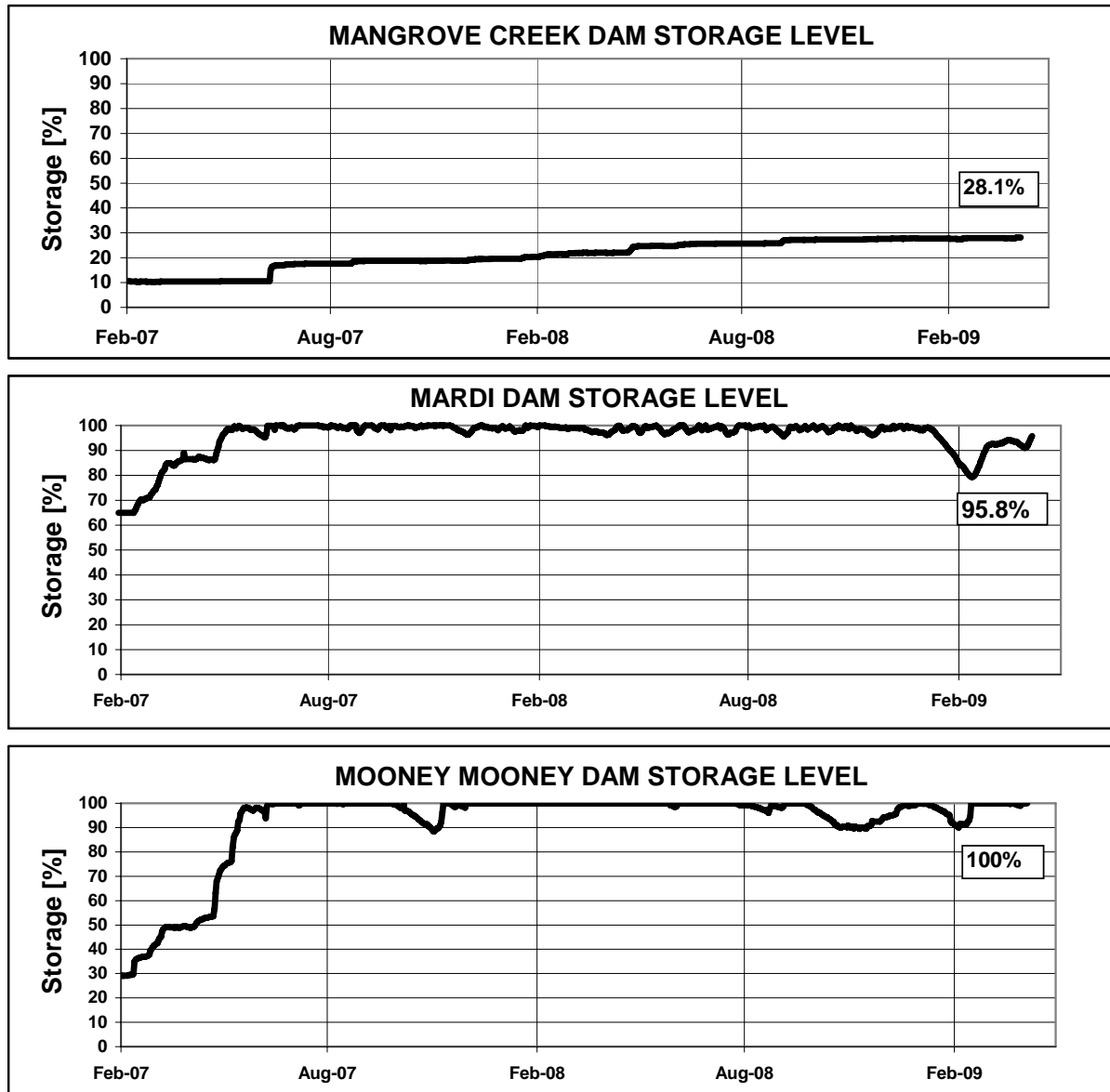
AGAINST: NIL."

2.1 Water Restrictions (contd)

Dam Storage Levels

Total Dam Storage as at 6 April 2009 is **32.2%**, an increase of **7.9%** since 1 January 2008.

Mangrove Creek Dam has increased by 8.5% (16,226 ML) to 28.1% since 1 January 2008. Mardi Dam and Mooney Mooney Dam have maintained close to a full storage level and due to this water has not been required to be released from Mangrove Creek Dam since February 2007 (other than small amounts for operational and maintenance reasons).



The total storage of the Hunter Water system in early April 2009 was 92.4%.

Since 1 January 2009, the Central Coast has supplied 59 megalitres to Hunter Water and Hunter Water has supplied 0 megalitres to the Central Coast.

Groundwater bores have supplied 103 megalitres since 1 January 2009.

2.1 Water Restrictions (contd)

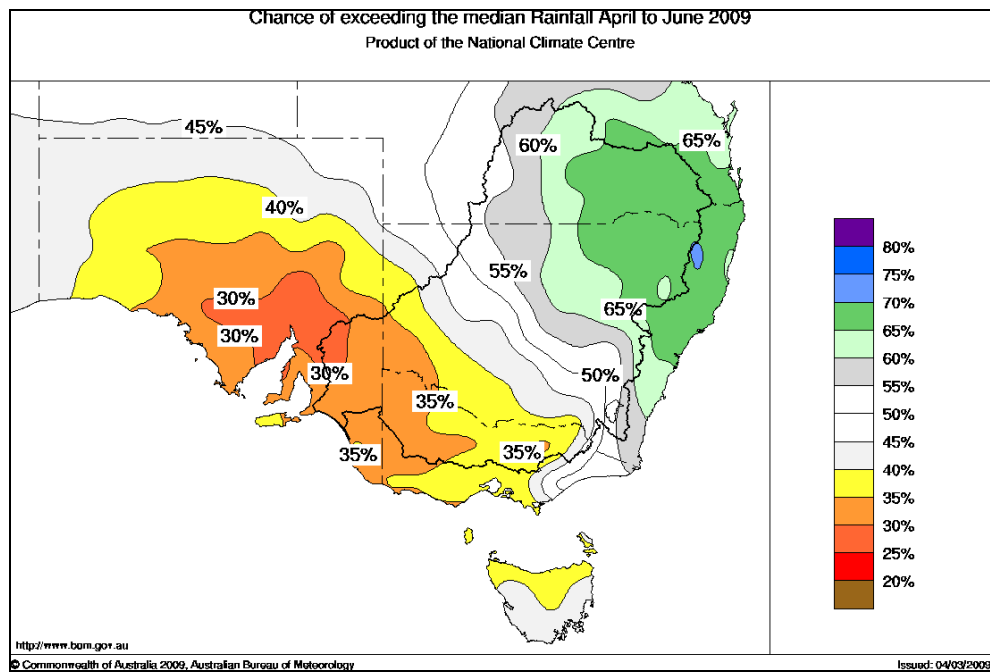
Rainfall

Period	Rainfall [mm]		
	Gosford	Norah Head	Mangrove Dam
Total for 2008	1718	1354	1202
Long Term Annual Average	1328	1230	917
Total for 2009 (till 31 March)	422	209	229
Long Term Average (Jan-Mar)	438	377	326

*During the first week of April between 80 and 100mm of rain fell over the catchment. The monthly average rainfall for Gosford for during April is 137mm making it likely that April rainfall will be above average.

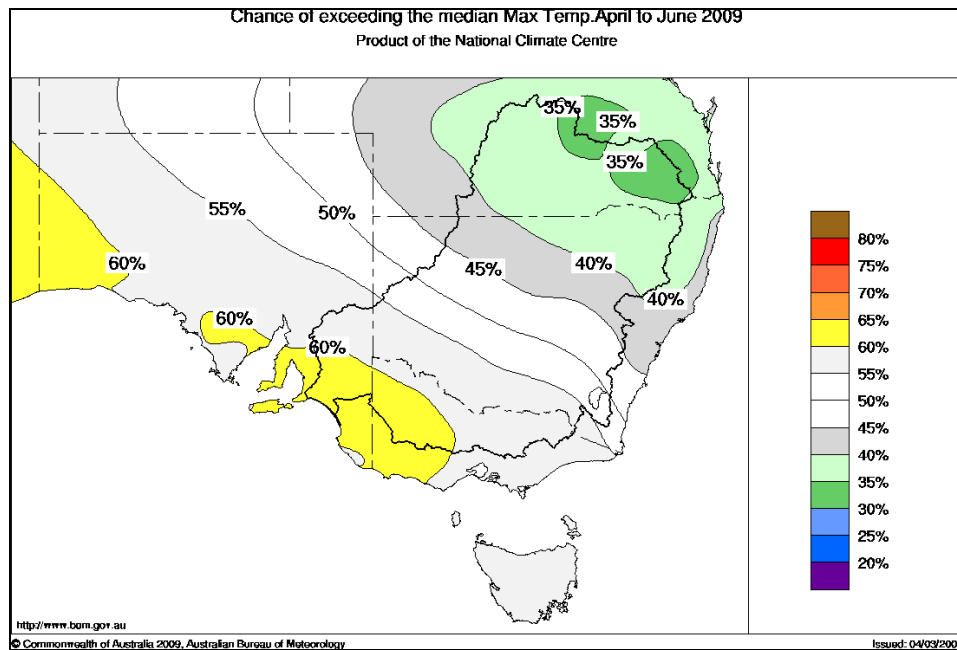
Seasonal Outlook for Rainfall and Temperature

The latest seasonal rainfall outlook issued by the Bureau of Meteorology for the Central Coast region predicts a 65-70% chance of exceeding the average rainfall for the April to June 2009 period.

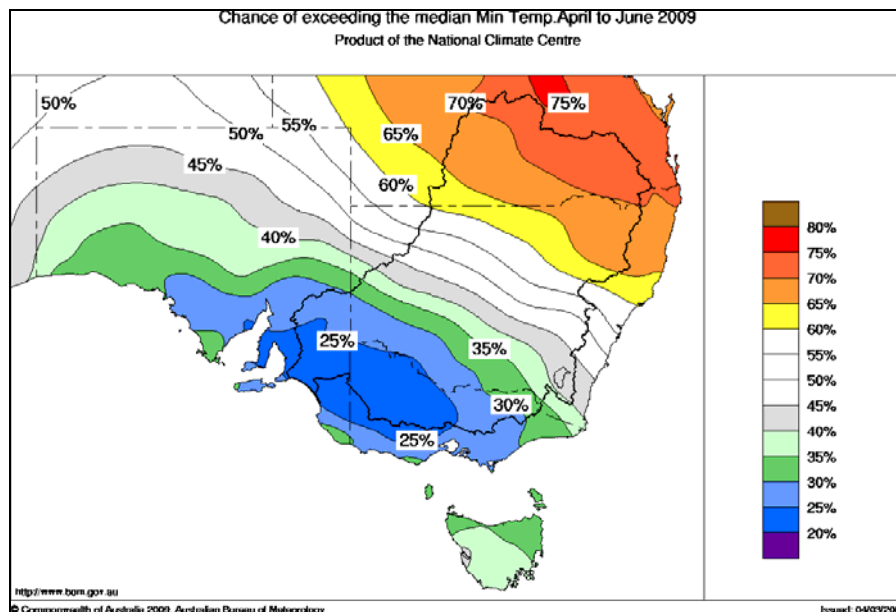


2.1 Water Restrictions (contd)

The seasonal projections for the Central Coast region also predict a 40-45% chance of exceeding the median maximum temperatures for the April to June 2009 period.



The seasonal projections predict a 55-60% chance of exceeding the median minimum temperatures for the April to June 2009 period.



El Niño / La Niña

The following is a summary from the Bureau of Meteorology website issued 1 April 2009:

Summary: A neutral Pacific; ocean warms and SOI falls.

The climate pattern across the equatorial Pacific has moved further away from the La Niña like conditions that had persisted in some ENSO indicators since late 2008. Almost all indicators are now well within their neutral range. The equatorial Pacific Ocean surface warmed through March and is now near normal, as is the SOI which dropped sharply from +15 in February to a 30-day value of +1 on 30 March. Sub-

2.1 Water Restrictions (contd)

surface temperatures also warmed across the tropical Pacific during March, but still remain cooler than normal in the central and eastern Pacific. Trade winds eased during March to become weaker than normal across almost the entire breadth of the tropical Pacific by the end of the month.

Most international coupled climate models predict further warming of Pacific Ocean sea surface temperature (SST) during the next few seasons, but with SSTs remaining in the ENSO-neutral range. A small number of models are predicting the development of El Niño conditions during the southern winter or spring, while none are suggesting a return to La Niña conditions. Given that March-June is the preferred El Niño genesis period, Pacific conditions and model predictions will continued to be monitored closely for strengthening indications of an event.

The Indian Ocean Dipole, as is typical for this time of year, is neutral. It will be monitored through autumn for any signs of an emerging event.

Water Restrictions and Water Consumption

Figure 1 below shows the total storage level and the water restriction levels that have been applied since February 2002.

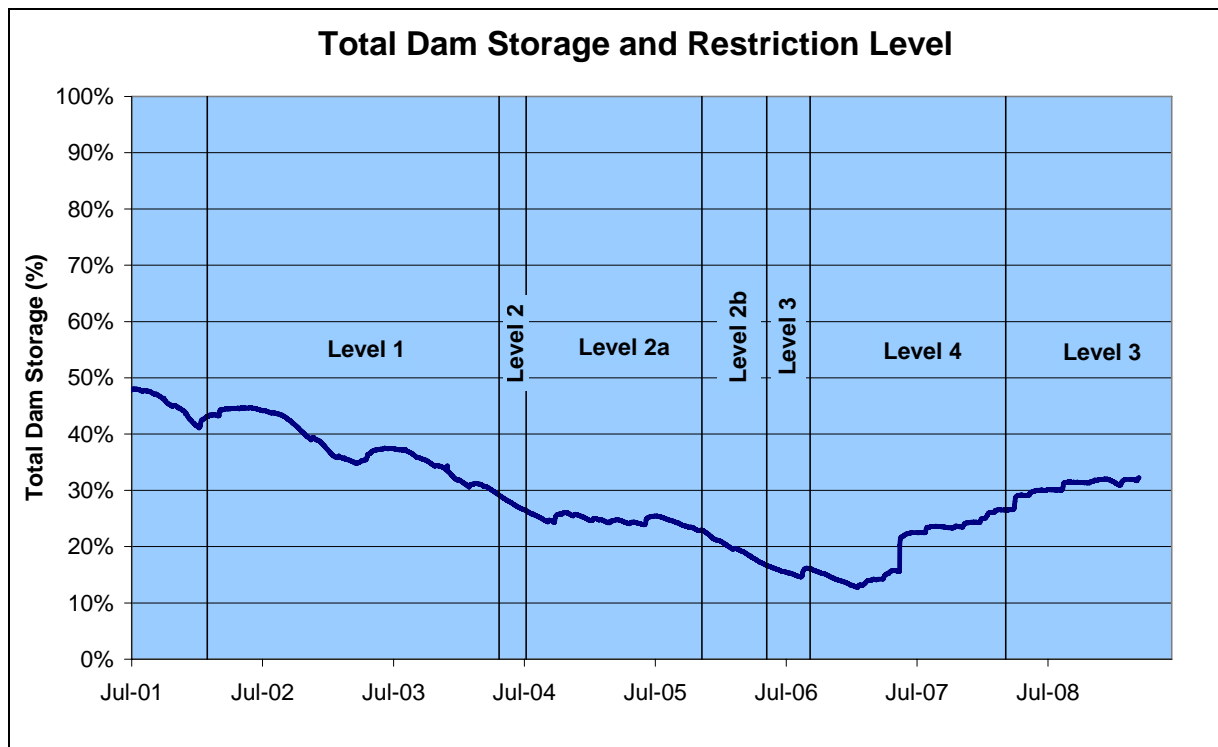


Figure 1: Total Dam Storage and Restriction Level

Level 1 restrictions (8% reduction) came into effect on 24 February 2002 and were in place until 16 May 2004. An average demand reduction of 11% adjusted for season variability was achieved during this period.

Level 2 restrictions (16 % reduction) came into effect on 17 May 2004 and were in place until 1 August 2004.

Level 2a restrictions (16% reduction) came into effect on 2 August 2004 and were in place until 3 December 2005. An average demand reduction of 20.6% adjusted for season variability was achieved during this period.

2.1 Water Restrictions (contd)

Level 2b restrictions came into effect on 4 December 2005 and were in place until 2 June 2006. An average demand reduction of 21.4% adjusted for season variability was attained during this period.

Level 3 restrictions (30% reduction) came into effect on 3 June 2006 and were in place until 30 September 2006. An average demand reduction of 29.8% adjusted for season variability was attained during this period.

Level 4 restrictions (32 % reduction) came into effect on 1 October 2006 and were in place until the 29 March 2008. An average demand reduction of 34% was attained during this period.

Level 3 restrictions (30% reduction) were reintroduced on the 30 March 2008 and are currently in force. Reductions have averaged 32.5% to date. Even with the demand being above target for a number of weeks during summer the target demand for the period since Level 3 restrictions was introduced has still been met. This is due to the demand being below target for many more weeks than it has been above it.

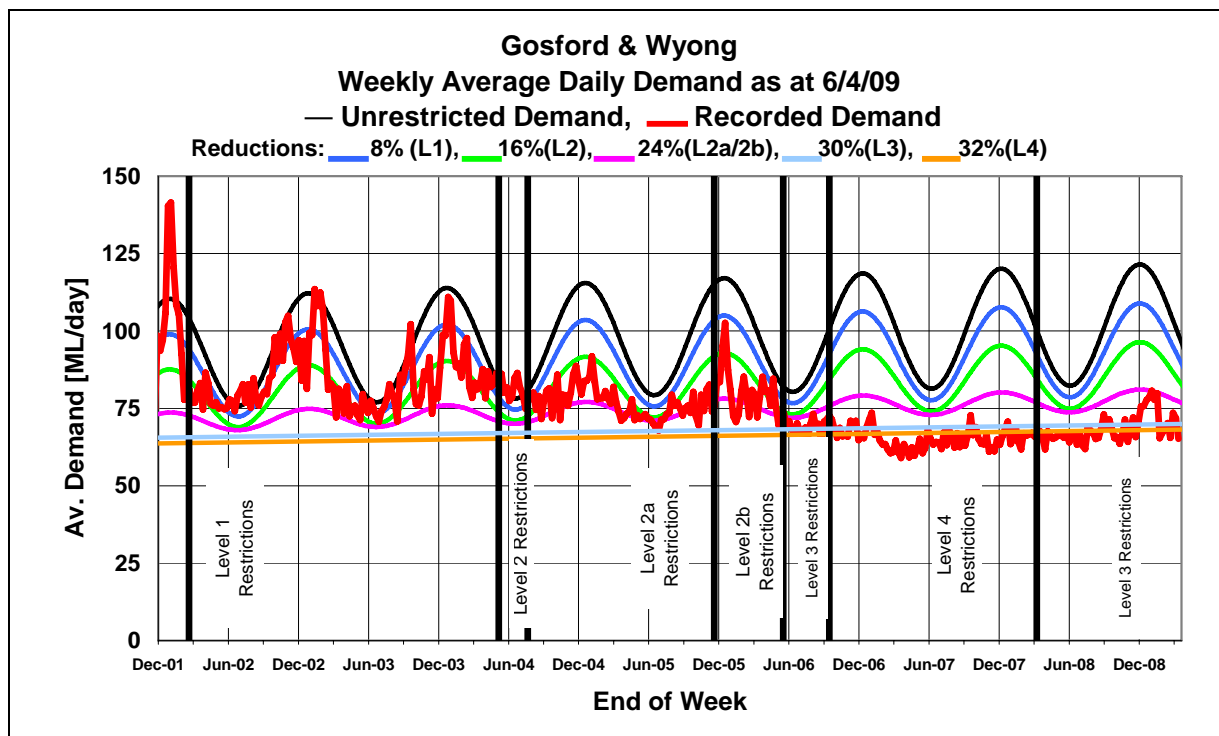


Figure 1: Water usage versus restriction targets

Water Savings and Supply Measures

The Councils' have carried out significant water savings and supply measures that have made the water supply system much more resilient than it was prior to the drought. Some of the measures are outlined in the table below.

<u>Water Savings Measures include:</u>	<u>Achievement</u>
▪ Rainwater Tank Rebate	Over 12,800 tanks.
▪ Washing Machine Rebates	Over 10,000 new efficient machines
▪ Effluent reuse projects	Toukley, Bateau Bay, Kincumber & Vales Point major reuse projects plus tanker fill up points at other treatment plants.
▪ REFIT Kit program	Over 11,000 kits

2.1 Water Restrictions (contd)

<u>Water Savings Measures include:</u>	<u>Achievement</u>
▪ Education Programs	“Little Green Steps”, “Watertight” and “Blue Planet” programs.
▪ Hunter Transfer system.	Up to 35 ML/d
▪ Groundwater Borefields	Up to 8.9 ML/d
▪ Wyong River to Mardi Dam Transfer Stage 1 Upgrade	Transfer capacity increased from 72 ML/d to 105 ML/d.

Current Water Restriction Guidelines

The Gosford Wyong water restriction guidelines are shown at Table 1 and were developed using computer modelling of the water supply system in conjunction with operational experience to determine appropriate storage levels for progressively applying the restriction levels.

A review of the guidelines in November 2007 determined that the current water restriction guidelines are appropriate for the time being given the current low storage levels and climatic conditions that have been experienced in recent years.

Once the Mardi to Mangrove Link is completed the current guidelines may need to be amended

The current restriction guidelines (adopted in July 2006) are shown below at Table 1:

Table 1: Current Restriction Guidelines

Restriction	Initiate Restriction when Total Storage Reduces to	Remove Restriction when Total Storage Rises to	Target Reduction during Restriction Level
Level 1	40%	47%	8 %
Level 2	30%	40%	16 %
Level 2a/ 2b	22%	30%	24 %
Level 3	18%	22%	30 %
Level 4	14%	18%	32 %
Level 5	12%	15%	38 %

The above levels are to be adjusted as follows:

- *During March/April, subtract 2% from all levels.*
- *During September/October, add 2% to all levels.*
- *At all other times, the nominated levels stand.*

The Council’s resolution for adoption of the current restriction guidelines included recognition of the need to consider the application of water restrictions within the overall context of the drought management strategy and other relevant factors influencing risks associated with the security of the supply. The key issues identified in the resolution to be considered in applying the restriction guidelines were:

- The seasonal outlook (for stream flows, rainfall and temperature).
- Achievement of the current restriction target.
- The timing and risk associated with contingency water supplies, and
- Any other relevant information.

Water Restriction Level

As at 6 April 2009 the total storage level was 32.2%.

Level 3 restrictions (30% reduction) were reintroduced on the 30 March 2008 and are currently in force. Whilst the Central Coast situation is no longer as critical as it was in early 2007, Mangrove Creek Dam is still at a low level and this requires the application of water restrictions to ensure system security is maintained.

The restriction guidelines identify the threshold for potentially moving to Level 2b restrictions during March and April as 20% of the total storage capacity.

Similarly the guideline level for moving to Level 2 restrictions during March and April is 28% of total storage capacity.

Under Level 2b restrictions the demand target is for a 24% saving on unrestricted water usage, whereas Level 2 restrictions target a 16% saving.

With pumping from the streams limited by the full storage levels at Mooney Mooney and Mardi Dams, the weirs on Mangrove Creek, Ourimbah Creek and Wyong River frequently overflow for extended periods. In addition Mooney Mooney Dam, being a small on-stream dam, also currently overflows after any reasonable rainfall.

The ongoing likelihood for average rainfall for the next three months indicates that further storage increases can be expected. During any short duration dryer periods it is expected that Mooney Mooney and Mardi Dams would recover quickly from any temporary lowering of their storage levels rather than fall by any significant extent due to the restricted demand and the availability of the Hunter transfers and groundwater supplies. Water from Mangrove Creek Dam has not been required since February 2007 (other than for minor releases to enable maintenance works to proceed) and it is not expected to be required in the short to medium term due to the availability of alternative sources of water. This indicates that the security of the water supply system would not be compromised by a shift to Level 2b water restrictions.

The community over the past 7 years has acted responsibly and proven it self able to reduce water usage as required to meet the water restriction targets. It is expected that with any change in water restriction level the community would be able to respond to meet the required target. It is therefore recommended that Level 2b restrictions be adopted.

Details of Level 1 through to Level 2a restrictions are summarised in Attachment 1. The previously applied Level 2b restrictions are detailed in Attachment 3 and the current Level 3 restrictions are detailed in Attachment 4.

The recommended measures under Level 2b restrictions are shown in Attachment 2. This is an amended set of Level 2b restrictions and differs from that previously in force on the Central Coast. It has been improved in a number of places including:

- Allowing for fewer but longer garden watering periods,
- Incorporating the new Level 3 car and boat washing provisions, and
- Allowing for the washing of windows with a bucket or a hose with trigger nozzle.

A side by side comparison of the proposed and previous Level 2b restrictions is shown in Table 2.

2.1 Water Restrictions (contd)

Table 2: Comparison of proposed Level 2b restrictions and the previous Level 2b restrictions

Note: differences marked in ***bold italics***

	Amended Level 2b	Original Level 2b
Lawns & Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fixed hoses or sprinklers (<i>including micro spray</i>) • Hand-held hoses (<i>with a trigger nozzle</i>) and drip irrigation systems can be used for <i>1 hour</i> a day on <i>two days of the week</i>, between the hours of 7.00 am - 9.00 am and 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm (<i>Odd numbered homes Wed & Sat, Even numbered homes Thur & Sun</i>) • Watering cans may be used to water at any time on any day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fixed hoses or sprinklers • Hand-held hoses, micro spray and drip irrigation systems can be used for 30 minutes a day on alternate days, 7am-9am and 5pm-7pm (Odd numbered homes Mon, Wed & Sat, Even numbered homes Tues, Thur & Sun) • Watering cans may be used to water at any time on any day.
Vehicle/Boat Washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All road vehicles (including cars, trucks, caravans and cars in car yards) may be washed with a bucket <i>or a hose provided a trigger nozzle is used.</i> • All boats (including all water craft) may be washed with a bucket <i>or a hose provided a trigger nozzle is used.</i> • Boat engines, bilges, boat trailer brakes & wheels may be washed with a hose for up to a total of <i>5 minutes provided a trigger nozzle is used.</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All cars and boats (including cars in car yards) to be washed with a bucket, not a hose. • Boat engines, bilges, boat trailer brakes & wheels can be washed with a hose for up to 10 minutes.
Paths, Driveways & and other Hard Surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No hosing down of hard surfaces, including paths, driveways and external surfaces of buildings, except where required by law and for health and safety. • <i>Windows may be washed with a bucket or a hose provided a trigger nozzle is used.)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No hosing down of hard surfaces, including paths, driveways and external surfaces (incl. windows and roofs) of buildings, except where required by law and for health and safety.
Private Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SAME APPLIES</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topping up of pools allowed, • Filling of new pools allowed. • No emptying and refilling of existing pools, except where repairs are required and exemptions are granted.
Bowling Greens, Golf Courses (Green & Tees) & Cricket Pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed watering systems allowed for up to 2 hours a day, between <i>6.00 am - 8.00 am</i> and 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed watering systems allowed for two hours each day from 6pm to 8pm each day.
Local Sporting Fields (<i>incl. School Sporting Ovals</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed watering systems can be used three times a week (<i>Mon, Tues & Fri</i>) between 7.00 pm and 9.00 pm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed watering systems can be used three times a week between 7pm and 9pm.

2.1 Water Restrictions (contd)

	Amended Level 2b	Original Level 2b
Water Management Plans	Customers with an annual demand greater than 3,500KL and hotels, motels, resorts, caravan parks and public pools. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparation and implementation of a Water Management Plan is required to achieve a minimum of 24 % reduction on pre restriction (2001) water usage.#)	Customers with an annual demand greater than 6000KL ^ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparation of a Water Management Plan identifying where water is consumed and proposed water efficiencies
Voluntary residential target	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 165 Litres per person per day.^	NOT USED

If the amended Level 2b water restrictions are adopted the Water Banking Scheme could be discontinued.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Previous Water Restrictions Levels 1 to 2a
- 2 Recommended Level 2b Water Restrictions
- 3 Previously applied Level 2b Water Restrictions
- 4 Current Level 3 Restrictions

Previous Water Restrictions Levels 1 to 2a

USE Introduced	Level 1	Level 1A	Level 2	Level 2A
	February 2002	August 2002	May 2004	August 2004
Lawns and Garden	No External fixed watering systems	No External fixed watering systems – Hand held hoses anytime, MICRO spray and drip systems 1hr per day between 7.00 pm & 9.00 pm	No External fixed watering systems - Hand held hoses, MICRO spray and drip systems 1hr per day on alternate days – 7.00-8.00 am & 6.00 -7.00 pm Watering cans anytime	No External fixed watering systems - Hand held hoses, MICRO spray and drip systems 1/2hr per day on alternate days – 7.00 - 9.00 am & 5.00 -7.00 pm Watering cans anytime
Hosing down of hard surfaces	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Swimming pools	No emptying and refilling	No emptying and refilling – topping up allowed	No emptying and refilling – topping up allowed, filling of new pools allowed	No emptying and refilling – topping up allowed, filling of new pools allowed
Car and Boat Washing	-	Use of buckets is encouraged	All cars and boats washed with a bucket. Boat engines, bilges and trailers washed with hose for up to 10 minutes	All cars and boats washed with a bucket. Boat engines, bilges and trailers washed with hose for up to 10 minutes
Major Regional Sporting facilities	Fixed water systems permissible 1hr per day	Fixed water systems permissible 1hr per day	Fixed water systems permissible 1hr per day	Fixed water systems permissible 1hr per day
Bowling Greens, Golf Clubs & Cricket Pitches	Fixed watering system 2hr per day – 6.00 -8.00 pm	Fixed watering system 2hr per day – 6.00 -8.00 pm	Fixed watering system up to 2hr per day – 6.00 - 8.00 am 6.00 - 8.00 pm	Fixed watering system 2hr per day – 6.00 -8.00 pm
Nurseries and commercial gardens	Fixed watering system up to 4hr per day – 6.00 -8.00 am 6.00 -8.00 pm	Fixed watering system up to 4hr per day – 6.00 -8.00 am 6.00 -8.00 pm	Fixed watering system up to 2hr per day – 6.00 -8.00 am 6.00 -8.00 pm	Fixed watering system up to 2hr per day – 6.00 -8.00 am 6.00 -8.00 pm
Local sporting fields	-	Fixed water systems three times a week for 2hrs – 7.00 -9.00 pm	Fixed water systems three times a week between 7.00 - 9.00 pm	Fixed water systems three times a week between 7.00 - 9.00 pm
Water Cartage from Town Supply	-	For domestic use only	-	-

Recommended Level 2b Water Restrictions (amended)

These restrictions, which apply to all water users including domestic, commercial, industrial, government and other, are in relation to the use of water sourced from the town supply. The external use of water from rainwater tanks that are connected internally and topped up by the town supply is also subject to these water restrictions.

Alternative water sources should be used in preference to town water where available and should be used efficiently.

Lawns & Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No fixed hoses or sprinklers (including micro spray) Hand-held hoses (with a trigger nozzle) and drip irrigation systems can be used for 1 hour a day on two days of the week, between the hours of 7.00 am - 9.00 am and 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm * Watering cans may be used to water at any time on any day
Vehicle / Boat Washing**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All road vehicles (including cars, trucks, caravans and cars in car yards) may be washed with a bucket or a hose provided a trigger nozzle is used. All boats (including all water craft) may be washed with a bucket or a hose provided a trigger nozzle is used. Boat engines, bilges, boat trailer brakes & wheels may be washed with a hose for up to a total of 5 minutes provided a trigger nozzle is used.)
Paths, Driveways & and other Hard Surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No hosing down of hard surfaces, including paths, driveways and external surfaces of buildings, except where required by law and for health and safety. Windows may be washed with a bucket or a hose provided a trigger nozzle is used.)
Private Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topping up of pools allowed, Filling of new pools allowed. No emptying and refilling of existing pools, except where repairs are required and exemptions are granted.
Bowling Greens, Golf Courses (Green & Tees) & Cricket Pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed watering systems allowed for up to 2 hours a day, between 6.00 am - 8.00 am and 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm.
Nurseries & Commercial Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed watering systems allowed for up to 2 hours a day, between 6.00 am - 8.00 am and 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm.
Local Sporting Fields (incl. School Sporting Ovals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed watering systems can be used three times a week (Mon, Tues & Fri) between 7.00 pm and 9.00 pm.
Major Regional Sporting Facilities (eg stadiums)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed watering systems allowed for up to one hour each day.
Water Cartage from Town Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Domestic Use Only
<i>Customers with an annual demand greater than 3,500KL and hotels, motels, resorts, caravan parks and public pools. ^)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Preparation and implementation of a Water Management Plan is required to achieve a minimum of 24 % reduction on pre restriction (2001) water usage.#)</i>
<i>Voluntary residential target</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>165 Litres per person per day.^</i>

* Lawn and Garden Watering Days

Odd number houses can water on Wednesdays, & Saturdays

Even number houses can water on Thursdays & Sundays

No watering on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Fridays.

An exemption applies to allow residents to use a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle to water-in new plants, shrubs and trees. This applies for 1 hour on any day between the hours of 7.00 am-9.00 am and 5.00 pm-7.00 pm for a period of 28 days after purchase (provided a receipt can be shown on request).

**Vehicle includes all road vehicles such as cars, trucks, motor bikes, caravans etc. Boat includes all water craft such as power boats, jet ski, sailing boat etc.

^ Customers required to prepare a Water Management Plan will be advised in writing by the local Council. Information and guidelines will be provided by the local Council to assist in the preparation of these plans.

#Water Management Plans prepared under Level 2b, Level 3 or Level 4 water restrictions will be acceptable unless otherwise advised by their local Council.

All exemptions issued under previous Level 4 or recent Level 3 water restrictions (i.e. since 1/10/06) are valid under the current Level 2b water restrictions. Any previous exemptions issued under other water restriction levels are revoked. No restrictions apply to the use of town water in the event of, or where there is risk of, an accident, fire, hazard to health, safety or environment. Runoff from any watered area is not permitted. Watering systems that do NOT draw on the town water supply should carry appropriate signage that is clearly visible from the street.

Any breaches of these restrictions can result in a \$200 fine for an individual and \$2,200 for a corporation.

^^The residential consumption target is expressed on a maximum per person basis. It is recognised that residential consumption within individual homes is affected by the efficiency of appliances/fixtures and number of occupants. The target is not mandatory but provides guidance to customers on acceptable water usage rates.

Previously applied Level 2b Water Restrictions

Gosford - Wyong Councils'

advice of water restrictions level 2b

Applying from midnight 4 December 2005 until further notice

Lawns & Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no fixed hoses or sprinklers hand held hoses, micro spray and drip systems can be used for 30 minutes on alternate days, between 7am-9am or 5pm-7pm.* Watering cans may be used to water gardens at any time on any day.
Car / Boat Washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all cars and boats (including cars in car yards) to be washed and rinsed with a bucket, not a hose. Boat engines, bilges, boat trailer brakes & wheels can be washed with a hose for up to 10 minutes.
Paths, Driveways & and other Hard Surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no hosing down of hard surfaces, including paths, driveways and external surfaces (incl. windows and roofs) of buildings, except where required by law and for health and safety.
Private Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> topping up allowed, filling of new pools allowed. no emptying and refilling of existing pools, except where repairs are required and exemptions are granted.
Bowling Greens, Golf Clubs & Cricket Pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed watering systems allowed for 2 hours each day from 6pm to 8pm.
Nurseries & Commercial Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fixed watering systems allowed for 2 hours a day, 6am to 8am and 6pm to 8pm.
Local Sporting Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fixed watering systems can be used three times a week between 7pm and 9pm.
Major Regional Sporting Facilities (eg stadiums)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed watering systems allowed for one hour each day.
Water Cartage from Town Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for domestic use only
Customers with an annual demand greater that 6000kL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Water Management Plan must be prepared to allow identification and Implementation of water efficiencies and savings #.

LAWN AND GARDEN WATERING DAYS

* Odd number houses can water on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.
Even number houses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

No watering on Fridays with a hose.

Customers required to prepare a Water Management Plan will be advised in writing by the local council. Information and guidelines will be provided by the local council to assist in the preparation of the Water Management Plan.

Any breaches of these restrictions can result in a \$200 fine.

Run off from any watered area is not permitted. Fixed watering systems that do NOT draw on the town water supply should carry appropriate signage that is clearly visible from the street.

If you would like more information contact your local council.

GOSFORD CITY COUNCIL (02) 4325 8222
www.gosford.nsw.gov.au

WYONG SHIRE COUNCIL (02) 4350 5555
www.wyong.nsw.gov.au



Current Level 3 Restrictions
Apply from Sunday 30 March 2008, until further notice

These restrictions apply to all water users including domestic, commercial, industrial and government who use water sourced from the town supply. External use of water from internally connected rainwater tanks is subject to the previous Level 2a water restrictions.

Lawns & Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fixed hoses or sprinklers • No Hand-held hoses, micro spray or drip systems • Watering cans may be used to water at any time on any day
Vehicle / Boat Washing**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All road vehicles (including cars, trucks, caravans and cars in car yards) may be washed with a bucket or a hose provided a trigger nozzle is used. • All boats (including all water craft) may be washed with a bucket or a hose provided a trigger nozzle is used. • Boat engines, bilges, boat trailer brakes & wheels may be washed with a hose for up to a total of 5 minutes provided a trigger nozzle is used.
All External Surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No washing or wetting of any external surface is permitted, including paths, driveways, building surface, outside furniture or structures.
Private Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topping or refilling of existing pools using a hose from the town water supply is not allowed. A bucket may be used or supply other than the drinking water supply system, • Filling of new pools from the town water supply is not permitted.
Bowling Greens, Golf greens & Cricket Pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watering systems for a total of 1 hour per day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between the hours of 6.00 am - 8.00 am and 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm are permitted.
Nurseries & Commercial Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watering systems for a total of 1 hour per day between the hours of 6.00 am - 8.00 am and 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm are permitted.
Sporting Fields, School Ovals and Grassed Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All external use of town water banned.
Water Cartage from Town Water Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted for domestic internal Use Only
Auto Flush urinals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timer controlled operation is not permitted.
Public Beach showers, fish tables and boat ramp taps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted.
Customers with an annual demand greater than 3,500KL and hotels, motels, resorts, caravan parks and public pools ^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and implementation of a Water Management Plan is required to achieve a minimum of 24 % reduction on pre restriction (2001) water usage.#
Voluntary residential target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 Litres per person per day.

**Vehicle includes all road vehicles such as cars, trucks, motor bikes, caravans etc. Boat includes all water craft such as power boats, jet ski, sailing boat etc

^ Customers required to prepare a Water Management Plan will be advised in writing by the local Council. Information and guidelines will be provided by the local Council to assist in the preparation of these plans.

#Water Management Plans prepared under Level 2b, Level 3 or Level 4 water restrictions will be acceptable unless otherwise advised by their local Council.

All exemptions issued under previous Level 4 water restrictions are valid under the current Level 3 water restrictions. Any previous exemptions issued under other water restriction levels are revoked.

No restrictions apply to the use of town water in the event of, or where there is risk of, an accident, fire, hazard to health, safety or environment.

Runoff from any watered area is not permitted.

Watering systems that do NOT draw on the town water supply should carry appropriate signage that is clearly visible from the street.

Any breaches of these restrictions can result in a \$200 fine for an individual and \$2,200 for a corporation.

The residential consumption target is expressed on a maximum per person basis. It is recognised that residential consumption within individual homes is affected by the efficiency of appliances/fixtures and number of occupants. The target is not mandatory but provides guidance to customers on acceptable water usage rates.

2.2 Rainwater Tank Rebate Program

TRIM REFERENCE: F2004/06808 - D01881415

AUTHOR: GC

SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to provide information to support a review of the Councils' rainwater tank rebate program in light of the new Commonwealth Government rebate for rainwater tanks.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and the information noted.

BACKGROUND

Wyong Shire Council at its meeting held on the 25 February 2009:

"RESOLVED unanimously on the motion of Councillor EATON and seconded by Councillor BEST:

- 1 That Council receive the minutes of the Gosford-Wyong Councils' Water Authority Board meeting held on 18 February 2009 and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.*
- 2 That Council reconsider item 3.3 – Rainwater Tank Rebate Program at the Joint Meeting with Gosford City Council in light of the new Commonwealth Government Water Tank Rebate.*

FOR: COUNCILLORS BEST, EATON, GRAHAM, McBRIDE, McNAMARA, MATTHEWS, SYMINGTON, VINCENT, WEBSTER AND WYNN.

AGAINST: NIL."

2.2 Rainwater Tank Rebate Program (contd)

The Councils introduced a modified rainwater tank rebate program on 1 January 2009, making the rebate available for internally connected rainwater tanks only. A summary of the rebate program along with the other rebate programs currently available is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: New Council rainwater tanks rebate program alongside the current NSW State Government and Federal Government rebate program.

Tank Size (L)	Council Rebate Program			NSW Government Rebate Program*			Federal Gov	Combined TOTAL
	New Tanks <u>NOT</u> Connected Internally	Rebate for New Tank Connected to a Toilet <u>or</u> Washing Machine #	Rebate for Existing Tank Connecting to Toilet <u>or</u> Washing Machine #	Rebate for Tank	Internal Connection to Toilet	Internal Connection to Washing Machine	Rebate [^]	Max Rebate available for new tank connected internally
2,000 - 3,999	\$0	\$150 plus \$300 or \$500	\$300 or \$500	\$150	\$500	\$500	\$300	Up to \$2,100
4,000 - 6,999	\$0	\$400 plus \$300 or \$500	\$300 or \$500	\$400	\$500	\$500	\$500	Up to \$2,800
7,000 +	\$0	\$500 plus \$300 or \$500	\$300 or \$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	Up to \$3,000

Rebate payable for the internal connection is \$300 or \$500 dependent on the plumbing option used as per the current rebate program.

* Note that the NSW Government rebate is only for new tanks installed after 1 July 2007.

^ Note rebate available for tanks purchased after 30 January 2009 and connected to either toilet and/or washing machine.

DISCUSSION

Rainwater tanks that are connected internally to toilets and washing machines provide a greater level of water saving over the long term than rainwater tanks used solely for outdoor use. By using rainwater for flushing of toilets and the washing of clothes instead of town water, residents can save up to 82 kilolitres of water per year which not only saves the town water supply but also acts to reduce a household water bill by around \$140 per year at the current water usage charge of \$1.67 per kilolitre.

Approximately 12,800 rebates have been paid to date across the Central Coast for rainwater tank installations under the Wyong Shire and Gosford City rebate programs. This includes approximately 1070 rebates for internal connections. Figure 1 below shows the cumulative number of rainwater tank rebates paid since the programs commenced in 2003. It can be seen from the graph that the number of tank installations increased rapidly after the announcement of Level 3 in mid 2006. Whilst the proportion of rainwater tanks connected internally has increased, the total number of tanks installed each month has decreased significantly since March 2007 and were not boosted by the introduction of the NSW State Government Rebate in 2007. This could be due in part to a saturation of the market for rainwater tanks, where most residents that were intending to install a rainwater tank having done so. Or it could be due in part to a return to above average rainfall from early 2007 onwards, decreasing the requirement for supplementary watering of gardens. The number of rainwater tanks connected internally each month has been relatively consistent over the last 2 years.

2.2 Rainwater Tank Rebate Program (contd)

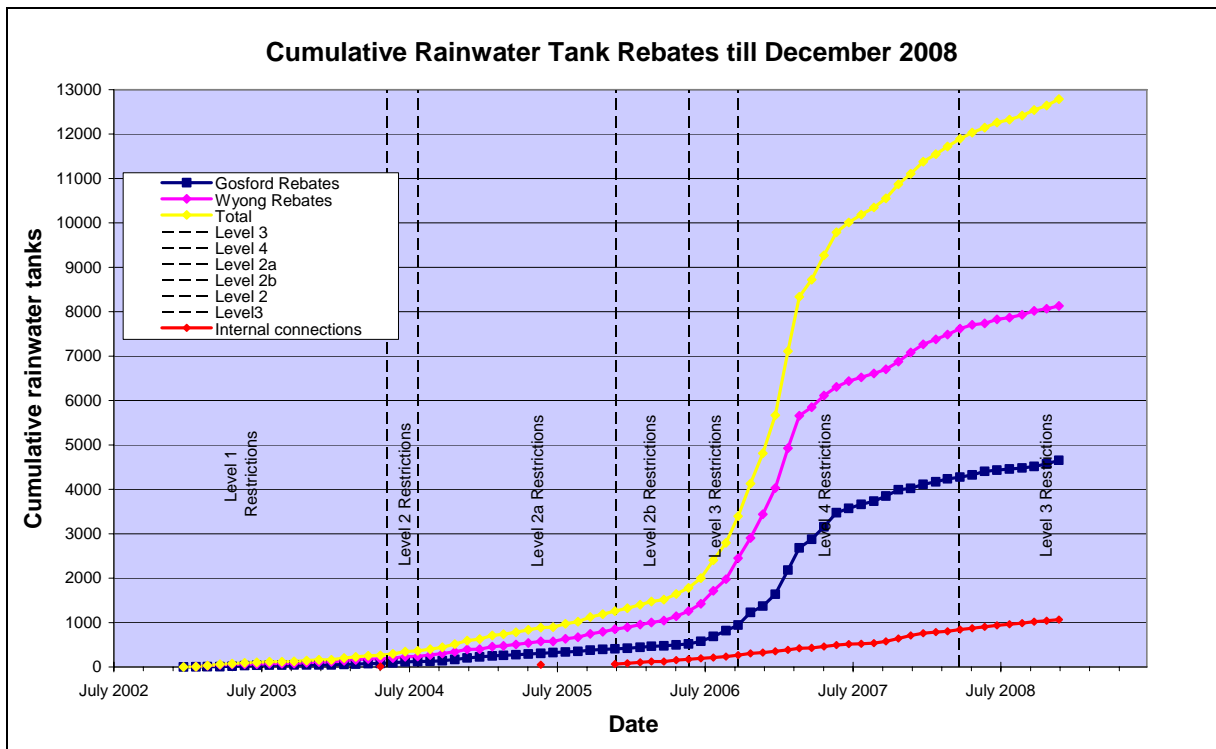


Figure 1: Cumulative number of rainwater tank rebates

Commonwealth Government Rebate Program

The Commonwealth Government has announced that it will provide a rebate of up to \$500 for the installation of new rainwater tanks connected to a toilet and/or the laundry as part of a \$250m National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative. Rebate applications will be accepted from 1 March 2009 for tanks purchased after 30 January 2009. The program will operate for six years from 2008-09 till 2013-14. Table 2 below outlines the rebate available. A copy of the fact sheet from the Commonwealth Government can be found in Attachment 1.

Table 2: Commonwealth Government Rainwater Tank and Greywater Treatment System Rebate Program

Rainwater tank(s)* 2,000 – 3,999 litres	\$400
Rainwater tank(s)* 4,000 litres or larger	\$500
Permanent greywater treatment system	\$500

*capacity may be reached by installing two or more smaller tanks. Note rainwater tanks are required to be connected to a toilet and/or the laundry.

Cost of Rainwater Tank water with rebates compared to the cost of Town Water

The level to which rainwater tanks are discounted through the use of rebates compared to the cost of water from the town water supply system can be assessed by calculating the cost per kilolitre of the residual cost with the current usage charge for town water. The example of a 5 kilolitre tank connected to both the toilet and washing machine has been used in Table 3 below.

2.2 Rainwater Tank Rebate Program (contd)

Table 3: Comparison of residual cost per kilolitre for a 5kL internally rainwater tanks versus town water charge under various rebate program scenarios.

Scenario	Capital Cost (5kL rainwater tank connected to both toilet & washing machine)	Rebate	Residual Capital Cost	Cost per Kilolitre using NPV over 30 yrs @ 7% (\$/kL)* (capex & opex)
No Rebate	\$2,680	\$0	\$2,680	\$3.08
NSW Government Rebate ONLY	\$2,680	\$1,400	\$1,280	\$1.70
Combined NSW Government & Existing Council Rebate	\$2,680	\$2,300	\$380	\$0.82
Combined NSW Government , Council and Commonwealth Rebate .	\$2,680	\$2,800	-\$120	\$0.32
Current Council Usage Charge for Town Water				\$1.67

*Based on average saving of 82kL per annum – opex includes \$500 pump replacement every 10 yrs and \$5 pa power charges.

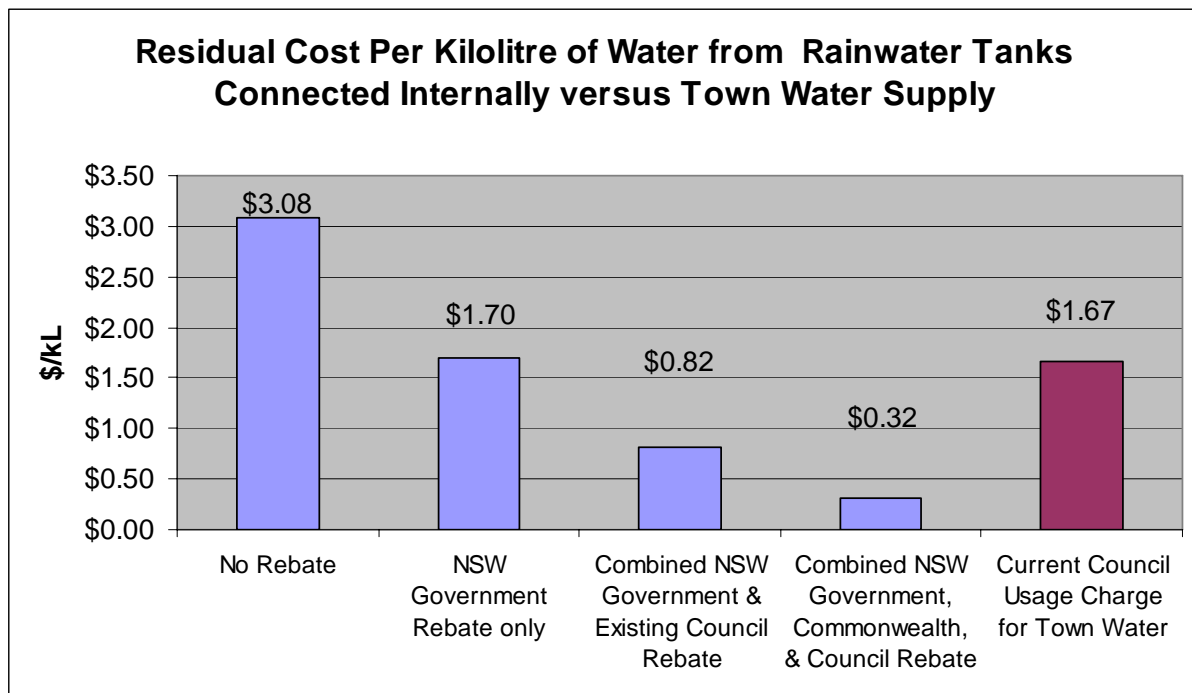


Figure 2: Residual Cost per Kilolitre for water from internally connected Rainwater tanks under various rebate scenarios versus the cost of water from the Councils town water supply.

As indicated by Table 3 and Figure 2 above, the NSW Government state wide rebate program acts to reduce the cost of water for an internally connected rainwater tank to a level that is close to the current usage charge for town water. On top of this, the Councils' current rebate program provides an additional rebate amount which acts to further discount the cost of water from a rainwater tank reducing it below the current usage charge. The Commonwealth rebate of \$500 acts to further reduce the cost per kilolitre again making it less than a fifth of the cost of purchasing town water. Therefore the Councils already provide a significant level of subsidy for rainwater tanks with the existing rebate program and it has to be questioned whether any further subsidy should be made.

2.2 Rainwater Tank Rebate Program (contd)

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPaRT) which regulates the maximum price that the Councils can charge for water has not included the Councils' rainwater tank rebate program in its draft determination. Whilst this does not prevent the Councils from continuing with the rainwater tank rebate program, it is an indication that IPaRT does not consider it a financially appropriate activity for the Councils in light of the other rebate programs available to the community.

Whilst the State and Federal Governments provide rebates for rainwater tanks connected internally, the Councils' rebate program is the only one available that provides a rebate to internally connect an existing tank. Given the significant number of tanks that have been installed on the Central Coast under the Councils' program that are not internally connected, (in excess of 11,500) and the long term benefit to reducing demands on the water supply of connecting tanks internally, this aspect of the Councils' rebate program is considered a valuable adjunct to the other rebate programs available.

With the NSW State Government and Commonwealth's rebate programs in place, the Councils could consider discontinuing their rainwater tank rebate program for new tanks from the end of the 2008-09 financial year. If such an action was considered, retention of a rebate for connecting existing tanks internally that are not covered by the other rebate programs should be considered.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Commonwealth Government Rainwater and Greywater Initiative Brochure



Australian Government

WATER

for the **FUTURE**

National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative

As part of the \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* plan, the Government is delivering the \$250 million *National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative* to help people use water wisely in their everyday lives.

The *National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative* offers households up to \$500 towards a new rainwater tank or greywater system which is purchased after 30 January 2009. Rebate applications will be accepted from 1 March 2009.

Rebates are available for either:

- The purchase and installation of a new rainwater tank which is connected for internal reuse of the water for toilet and/or laundry use; or
- The purchase and installation of a permanent greywater treatment system.

Your questions answered

Who can apply for a rebate?

The owner of an existing home that is a principal place of residence where an eligible rainwater tank or greywater system has been installed may apply for a rebate under the *National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative*.

Suppliers and installers of rainwater tanks and/or greywater systems cannot apply for the *National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative* rebate on behalf of their customers. Commonwealth, state, territory or local government authorities are not eligible for the rebate.

How do I apply?

The guidelines and application form for the *National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative* household rebates are available from www.environment.gov.au/water or by calling 1800 808 571.

What is the deadline for applications?

Applicants must apply for the rebate within six months of purchasing an eligible rainwater tank or greywater system. Applications will not be accepted after 31 March 2014.

How much is the rebate?

Rainwater tank(s)* 2,000 - 3,999 litres	\$400
Rainwater tank(s) 4,000 litres or larger	\$500
Permanent greywater treatment system	\$500

* The capacity may be reached by installing two or more smaller tanks.



House and rainwater tank (DEWHA).

Can I apply for the rebate if I am renting?

Only the owner of a property, which is a principal place of residence, can apply for the *National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative* rebate. Renters may want to encourage the property owner to submit an application and install a tank or greywater system.

Can I get the rebate for a tank or greywater system I install on my investment property?

Yes, as long as it is a principal place of residence (i.e. tenanted as a residence, not a holiday home or similar). An owner may apply for rebates on separate properties that they own.

What if I live in an apartment or retirement village?

You are eligible for the rebate if you are the owner of a strata title dwelling within a body corporate or retirement village and the rainwater tank or greywater system has been installed at your individual place of residence.

Are rebates available for homes under construction?

No. The rebates are only available for rainwater tanks or greywater systems installed at an existing, occupied home. This is to ensure that the rebate is not duplicating existing planning requirements etc.

Water for the Future is a long-term plan to secure the water supply for all Australians. The Government is investing \$12.9 billion over 10 years to address four key priorities:

- Taking action on climate change
- Using water wisely
- Securing water supplies
- Supporting healthy rivers

Can community organisations apply for a rebate for a rainwater tank or greywater system?

Community organisations that own dwellings which are permanently occupied may apply for a rebate for rainwater tanks or greywater systems installed at these homes. The program is targeted to households so rebates are not available for tanks or greywater systems installed at other (non residence) community buildings.

Can I apply for a rebate if I have already purchased my rainwater tank or greywater system?

Yes, if the eligible rainwater tank or greywater system was purchased after 30 January 2009.

Can I apply for a rebate if I have already received a rebate for that property under the National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative?

No, each eligible property is eligible for one rebate only under this program. If you are unsure whether an Australian Government rebate for a rainwater tank or greywater system has already been claimed for your property, please call 1800 808 571.

Can I apply for separate rebates for rainwater tanks and greywater systems for the one property?

No, each eligible property is eligible for one rebate only under this program.

What if I have already claimed, or intend to claim, a state, territory or local government rebate for my rainwater tank or greywater system?

An application for the Australian Government rebate program will not be affected by any rebates offered by other governments.

For details on other rebates that may be available, contact your relevant local government, state or territory authority.

Is the rebate means tested?

No.

Why does the rainwater tank or greywater system need to be plumbed in? What does this mean?

Plumbing in to the house will help reduce the amount of water taken from the existing mains supply.

Modelling results vary across Australia but the yield of a tank increases when it is connected to the house. For example, a toilet connection of a 2,000 litre tank (average roof area) is estimated to increase the yield of a tank in Sydney by 32 per cent and in Melbourne by 10 per cent.

Plumbing in means a permanent connection, installed by a licensed plumber, of a rainwater tank or greywater system to indoor plumbing for toilet and/or laundry use or, in the case of a greywater treatment system, to a sub-surface irrigation system and/or indoor plumbing for toilet and/or laundry use (if this is allowed under state or territory regulations).

Why must a licensed plumber connect my rainwater tank or greywater system?

In most cases this is a requirement under plumbing regulations. The licensed plumber can also certify that the tank(s) / greywater system has been installed according to the program guidelines.

What is a permanent greywater treatment system?

A permanent greywater treatment system collects, treats and disinfects greywater generated from a household. These systems usually include primary treatment in the form of a grease trap and coarse filter and a secondary aerobic treatment and disinfection. The input to the system needs to be permanently connected to the dwelling and the output needs to be plumbed back in to the house and/or to a sub-surface irrigation system.

More information

For more information about the *National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative* call 1800 808 571 or visit www.environment.gov.au/water.

For more information about *Water for the Future* call 1800 218 478 or visit www.environment.gov.au/water.



Rainwater tank (M. McAulay & DEWHA).