

AMENDED ITEM



Item No: 7.5
Title: Notice of Motion - Council to seek independent expert advice on Critical Level 2 Water Restrictions
Department: Councillor

10 February 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2019/00041-004 - D13794542

Author: Greg Best, Councillor

Bruce McLachlan, Councillor

Councillors Best and McLachlan have given notice that at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 10 February 2020 they will move the following motion:

- 1 That further to Council recently resolving to proclaim a Central Coast Climate Emergency and both Sydney and Hunter Water 'precautionarily' going early to Level 2 in response to expert advice from State Water Minister Melinda Pavey, it is with this understanding that this Council now also seek the Minister's expert advice on our Region going to Level 2 now.**
- 2 That Council notes using the current trigger point matrix, Level 2 will not be introduced until approximately August 2020 by which time an extra 2 billion litres of valuable drinking water will unnecessarily have been consumed.**
- 3 That Council notes the recent introduction of Level 1 Water Restrictions achieves only limited water savings, as Level 1 and the current 'Water Wise Rules' are virtually identical. See Water Wise / Level 1 Comparison Matrix below.**
- 4 That further Council recognises the critical importance of conserving water supply for our some 350,000 Residents and Ratepayers and notes that this Region on current drawdown consumption has approximately three years supply, with devastating Level 5 likely being reached by mid 2021.**
- 5 That Council notes the greater our conservation efforts, the less likely we will need to construct the \$130 million Lakes Beach Desalination Plant.**
- 6 That Council soberingly understands the imperative around avoiding taking this Region to Level 5 Restrictions that are currently scheduled to be triggered in approximately 15 months time. These prohibitive restrictions will result in almost zero external water usage whatsoever, crippling our Nursery industry, Bowling Greens, Cricket pitches and sporting fields. Pools will be mothballed. Lawns and Gardens will most certainly be sacrificed. See Current Updated 2020 Water Restrictions Rules Levels 1-5 attached.**

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Councillors Note

N.B. All figures, assumptions and approximations are made subject to no significant rain.

Councillors, I appreciate that our major parties do not often see eye to eye, however I appeal to you all now to come together around what is emerging to be one of the most critical issues we may face. This is not a squabble over a DA or how many trees to plant in a park or whether the Staff have got it right or wrong, this is about running this Region and it's 350,000 Residents and Ratepayers out of drinking water, not to mention their businesses. The Hunter and Sydney have both employed the precautionary principle and gone to Level 2.

With the recent introduction and fan fare of Level 1 we may well be able to be "seen" to be doing something. However, when one reviews the current Water Wise Rules and the Level 1 Water Restrictions, that are almost identical, the benefits in real terms are nothing more than a bandaid. Simply put we have to get serious on this issue.

The introduction of Level 2 now will still allow our Community to enjoy their gardens and their lawns, our kids to play on sporting fields and businesses to operate effectively. However what it doesn't allow us to do is to consume more than an extra 2 billion litres of water between now and August when Level 2 is scheduled to officially come in. These are simple steps that will and can make an enormous difference. I appreciate that there are differing views in our Chamber and that we are all the sum total of our experiences. It is with this understanding that having lived through the Millennial Drought, as a Councillor and former Mayor, I know all too well exactly where this situation may end. As outlined in the above Motion, 'the clock is running' within approximately 15 months with a continuation of the current weather patterns we will be hurtling towards Level 5.

Also, it has been pointed out to myself over the Christmas period that the Hunter and Sydney's Level 2 Water Restriction advertisements are regularly coming into our Media signal via tv, radio and print. With the Central Coast now on Level 1, the situation is going to become even more confusing. In my view the common sense approach here is to step into line with our neighbouring Council's and take this Water Crisis seriously.

Further I note there have been calls from various quarters of our Community to seek expert advice and I can not agree more hence this matter should be referred to the Minister.

Level 1 water restrictions

	What can't you do?
Watering lawns and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use sprinklers at any time. Leave hoses or taps running unattended.
Hard surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a hose for general cleaning of hard surfaces such as paths, driveways and paved areas. Leave hoses and taps running unattended.
Washing vehicles, boats and buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash vehicles, boats and buildings using a hose without a trigger nozzle.
Private pools and spas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave an unattended hose running in a pool or spa.
Internal use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help water saving efforts by repairing internal leaks as quickly as possible, such as dripping taps or leaking toilets. Tip: Fixing a leaking toilet can save you between 10 to 260 litres a day.

To estimate how much water you use, and for more water saving tips visit centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/lovewater



Water Wise Rules

	What can't you do?
Watering lawns and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave hoses or taps running unattended.
Hard surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a hose for general cleaning of hard surfaces such as paths, driveways and paved areas. Leave hoses and taps running unattended.
Washing vehicles, boats and buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash vehicles, boats and buildings using a hose without a trigger nozzle.
Private pools and spas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave an unattended hose running in a pool or spa.
Internal use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help water saving efforts by repairing internal leaks as quickly as possible, such as dripping taps or leaking toilets. Tip: Fixing a leaking toilet can save you between 10 to 260 litres a day.

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Current Water Restriction Rules	Level 1 4%	Level 2 8%	Level 3 16%	Level 4 27%	Level 5 30%
Target saving Lawns & Gardens	Watering including with sprinklers and irrigation systems is permitted any day before 10am and after 4pm to avoid heat of the day. All hand held hoses to have a trigger nozzle.	No hand held hoses or sprinklers (including micro spray). Hand-held hoses (with a trigger nozzle) and drip irrigation systems can be used any day before 10am and after 4pm to avoid heat of the day. Watering cans may be used to water at any time on any day.	No hand held 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 three days of the week, between the hours of 6:00 am - 9:00 am and 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm (Odd numbered homes: Mon, Wed & Sat, Even numbered homes: Tues, Thu & Sun). Watering cans may be used to water at any time on any day.	No hand held 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 6:00 am - 9:00 am and 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm (Odd numbered homes: Wed & Sat, Even numbered homes: Thur & Sun). Watering cans may be used to water at any time on any day.	No hoses or sprinklers (including micro spray). Watering cans may be used to water at any time on any day.
Vehicle / Boat Washing**	All road vehicles (including cars, trucks, caravans and cars in car yards) and boats and their trailers may be washed with a bucket or a hose provided a trigger nozzle or pressure cleaner is used. Hose to flush boat engines is permitted.	All road vehicles (including cars, trucks, caravans and cars in car yards) and boats and their trailers may be washed with a bucket or a hose provided a trigger nozzle or pressure cleaner is used. Hose to flush boat engines is permitted.	All road vehicles (including cars, trucks, caravans and cars in car yards) and boats and their trailers may be washed with a bucket or a hose provided a trigger nozzle or pressure cleaner is used. Hose to flush boat engines is permitted.	All road vehicles (including cars, trucks, caravans and cars in car yards) and boats and their trailers may be washed with a bucket or a hose provided a trigger nozzle or pressure cleaner is used (max 5 mins). Hose to flush boat engines (max 5 mins).	All external use of town water banned. Vehicles window can be cleaned using a bucket.
Hard Surfaces	No hosing of paths and driveways.	No hosing of paths and driveways.	No hosing of paths and driveways.	No washing or wetting of any external surface is permitted, including paths, driveways, building surface, outside furniture or structures.	All external use of town water banned.
Private Pools	Topping up of existing pools using a hose from the town water supply is permitted.	Topping up of existing pools using a hose from the town water supply is permitted.	Emptying and refilling of existing pools using a hose from the town water supply is not permitted. Topping up of existing pools using a hose from the town water supply is permitted. Filling of new pools from the town water supply is permitted.	Topping or refilling of existing pools using a hose from the town water supply is not permitted. 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.	All external use of town water banned.
Bowing Greens, Golf Greens & Croquet Pitches	Watering including with sprinklers and irrigation systems is permitted any day before 10am and after 4pm to avoid heat of the day. All hand held hoses to have a trigger nozzle.	Fixed watering system up to 2hr per day 6:00-8:00 am 6:00-10:00 pm	Fixed watering system up to 2hr per day 6:00-8:00 am 6:00-10:00 pm	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.	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	Watering including with sprinklers and irrigation systems is permitted any day before 10am and after 4pm to avoid heat of the day. All hand held hoses to have a trigger nozzle.	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	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.	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	Watering including with sprinklers and irrigation systems is permitted any day before 10am and after 4pm to avoid heat of the day. All hand held hoses to have a trigger nozzle.	Fixed water systems three times a week between 6:00-10:00 pm	Fixed water systems two times a week between 6:00-10:00 pm	All external use of town water banned.	All external use of town water banned.
Water Cartage from Town Water Supply	Permitted	Permitted for domestic Internal Use Only	Permitted for domestic Internal Use Only	Permitted for domestic Internal Use Only	Permitted for domestic Internal Use Only
Auto Flush urinals	Timer controlled operation is not permitted.	Timer controlled operation is not permitted.	Timer controlled operation is not permitted.	Timer controlled operation is not permitted.	Timer controlled operation is not permitted.
Public Beach showers, fish tables and boat ramp lifts	Permitted.	Permitted.	Permitted.	Not permitted.	Not permitted.
Customers with an annual demand greater than 3,000KL and hotels, motels, resorts, caravan parks and public pools	Preparation and implementation of a Water Management Plan	Preparation and implementation of an approved Water Management Plan	Preparation and implementation of an approved Water Management Plan	Preparation and implementation of a Water Management Plan is required to achieve a minimum of 24% reduction on pre restriction (2001) water usage.	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	150 Litres per person per day	150 Litres per person per day	150 Litres per person per day	150 Litres per person per day	140 Litres per person per day

Attachments

Nil.