

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **LEVEL 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS**

#### **Why are restrictions needed?**

Together with most other regions of NSW, the Shoalhaven is experiencing an extended dry period and the long term outlook by the Bureau of Meteorology indicates a lower than normal prediction for good rainfall.

Council has a drought Management Plan to encompass these events and in accordance with that Plan it is necessary to implement restrictions to ensure long term water security.

#### **What should I do now?**

There are many ways you can prepare your garden to manage on less water. In addition you can conserve water around the home. To learn about ways to conserve the amount of water you use, consider some of these [tips](#).

**Remember to check that you are only watering your garden beds, not your driveways or paths.**

**Use deep root watering (powerful jet direct into the roots) once per week.**

#### **What is a Hard Surface?**

Houses, walls and windows, driveways, paths etc are all considered to be “hard surfaces” and in most cases are not considered to be high in prioritising water for essential purposes and therefore Level 1 bans this type of use.

#### **Can I wash my Car, Boat or Caravan?**

Privately owned cars, boats and caravans can be washed using a hand held hose only if they are washed on a grassed surface, where a grassed surface is not available a special variation will be required.

#### **Can I still flush my boat motor after use?**

Yes, motor flushing may be conducted as per car, boat and caravan washing above. Motors do not need to be flushed if being used daily.

#### **Can I fill my swimming pool/external spa?**

Yes, by using one hand held hose. Do not leave hoses unattended with the end in the pool, this will prevent backflow from occurring and protect our water supply.

### **Can I fill a new swimming pool/external spa?**

Yes, by using one hand held hose.

### **Are there standard watering times?**

Not in Level 1 Restrictions for domestic use.

### **What if I have a Drip-irrigation system – can I still use it?**

Yes, but only to be used if fixed to a single tap per property and fixed with a timer and only in lieu of a hand held hose.

### **Can I water new lawns or turf?**

Yes, by using one hand held hose.

### **Can I use 'Grey Water' on my garden?**

Yes, for more information, visit the Shoalhaven Water Website for tips on using grey water at [www.shoalwater.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shoalwater.nsw.gov.au) and click on Water Snapshot > Water-wise gardening > Grey Water.

### **Are there any plants that are drought resistant?**

Yes, contact your local nursery or contact Council to request a copy of our 'Plant Selection Guide' for more information on what plants are drought resistant.

### **What can I do if I see someone breaching the water restrictions?**

Contact Shoalhaven Water on 1300 662 246 speak to an operator and provide the following information; date and time of alleged breach, property address, details of the breach. You may remain anonymous if you do not wish to give your name. A Council Ranger will then follow up any breaches.

### **How long will the water restrictions remain in place?**

Water Restrictions are lifted when:

- The long term forecast for rain is considered positive, and
- The three Council dams are full, and
- It is unlikely that water restrictions will be re-imposed within 3 months, and
- At least 3 weeks has elapsed following substantial rain to confirm the stable flow inflow into Tallowa Dam, and
- The stable flow in the river is predicted or confirmed being greater than 135 ML/day, or

If there is still some uncertainty after 3 weeks, move to ease until stable river flow can be confirmed.

On approval to lift restrictions, the general community would be advised via local radio/print media.

### **What can I do to conserve water around my home?**

Visit the Shoalhaven Water Website for tips on conserving water at [www.shoalwater.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shoalwater.nsw.gov.au) and click on 'Water Snapshot'.

### **At what stage do Level 1 Water Restrictions apply?**

When Bamarang Dam is drawn down a release will be made from the Council's Danjera Dam to refill Bamarang Dam from the Burrier pumps. This will trigger Level 1 water restrictions and to increase the level of restriction for the Shoalhaven City.

### **What if I am not a commercial or community group, can I obtain an approved special variation?**

An approved special variation may be provided if the use is for special circumstances outside the designated hours or purposes or the conditions of restrictions cannot be reasonably met. An application will be required and additional supporting documentation may be required.

### **What happens if I don't abide by the restrictions?**

Council Rangers will be enforcing compliance with the water restrictions and additional support may be provided by private security companies. Breach of water restrictions may result with an imposition of fines in accordance with the Local Government Act up to a maximum for repeat offences of \$2,200.