



MEDIA RELEASE

BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL GENERALLY PLEASED WITH THE LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE WITH LEVEL 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS

Level Three (3) water restrictions have applied in Bourke and North Bourke since Monday 24th December 2018 and there has been a high level of compliance with those restrictions to date.

The height of the Darling River at Bourke Weir dropping below 3 metres was the catalyst for the introduction of level three (3) restrictions.

The restrictions means that the use of fixed sprinklers is prohibited and hand held hoses can only be used for two (2) hours per day at each property.

The washing of paved areas and motor vehicles can be only undertaken using buckets (commercial operations with recycling facilities are exempt).

Council has the authority under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 to reduce the flow to or disconnect the supply of raw water to properties who fail to comply with the imposed restrictions.

Manager of Works at Bourke Shire Council, Peter Brown said that the river at Bourke has been reported to the public as having a static reading of 2.94 metres over the past ten (10) days, however this reading has been found as incorrect.

The river at Bourke has not been this so low since the installation of new automated monitoring equipment and the new system is currently not able to read the critically low river heights we are currently experiencing.

Readings are now being undertaken manually on a daily basis.

The correct river reading is in fact at 2.85 metres having dropped 15 centimetres in the last ten (10) days.

The extremely hot weather conditions experienced over the past two (2) weeks have led to high levels of evaporation and have also caused significant damage to most gardens and lawns and these conditions are unfortunately expected to continue for another week

On current usage and evaporation levels, it is expected that the level in the river will fall below 2.5 metres by the end of the month which will trigger the introduction of level four (4) water restrictions.

General Manager of Bourke Shire Council Ross Earl has asked that residents continue to demonstrate a high level of compliance with the restrictions despite the obvious impact on their gardens and lawns. He added that residents should look at watering late in the evening or early in the morning so the water has greater impact and the level of evaporation reduced.

He said the current outlook for both rain and/or a flow in the river is bleak and it will be an ongoing battle to keep gardens alive in such oppressive conditions.

Mr Earl said Bourke Shire Council was looking at options to maximise the use of available water in the river and asks the community for their on-going cooperation.

Full details of restrictions are available on Councils Website www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

Full details of restrictions are also attached to this release

End

Further Media information contact the General Manager Ross Earl 0409362307 or Manager of Works Peter Brown 04882906620.

Bourke Shire Council Schedule of Water Restrictions to be applied at Various River Levels

Restriction Level	1	2	3	4	5	6
At River Gauge Level	3.9m	3.5m	3m	2.5m	2m	1.5m
Weir Pool	100%	84%	65%	48%	33%	22%
TYPE OF CONSUMER						
Domestic						
Household Use	No Restrictions					100L Person Day
Evaporative Air Conditioners	No Restrictions				No Bleed-off allowed	No Water allowed
Garden Watering	Sprinkler taps per household	Sprinkler taps per household	Hand held hoses	Hand held hoses	Buckets only	Reused water only

	2 hrs daily, During 2hr periods/day 6am to 8am or 6pm to 8pm	1 hr daily During 1hr period/day 7am to 8am or 7pm to 8pm	2hr/d	1hr/d		
Swimming Pools Private	Filling of new swimming pools prohibited		Filling and topping up of pools prohibited			
Wash paved areas and roof	With pressure cleaner and/or buckets only		Buckets only		Banned	
Washing Motor Vehicles	No restrictions	With pressure cleaner and/or buckets only	Manual - buckets only		Banned	

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Public						
Public Gardens	Appendix 1	Appendix 1	Appendix 1	Hand held hoses 1hr/d	Reused water only	
Sports Grounds	Appendix 1	Appendix 1	Appendix 1	Hand held hoses 1hr/d	Reused water only	
Davidson Oval & Swimming Pool	Appendix 1	Appendix 1	Appendix 1	Sprinklers 1/hr per day	Hand held hoses 1hr/d	Reused water only
Commercial						
Nurseries	Sprinklers 2hrs/d	Sprinklers 1hr/d	Hand held hoses 4hrs/d	Hand held hoses 2hrs/d	With Council license only	
Washing Motor Vehicles Taxis and Police	No restrictions	With pressure cleaner and/or buckets only	Manual - buckets only		Banned except as required by law	
Bowling greens	Sprinklers 2hrs/d	Sprinklers 1hr/d	Hand held hoses 2hrs/d	Hand held hoses 1hr/d	Reused water only	
Fountains	No restrictions	Topping up prohibited	Banned			
Water Cartage from Town Supply	No restrictions		With Council license only			
Automatic flush toilets & urinals	No restrictions		Banned			
Wash paved areas and roof	With pressure cleaner and/or buckets only		Buckets only		Banned except as required by health	

Below: Restrictions modified January 2014

Appendix 1 of Drought Management Plan

Water Restrictions for Public Parks and Sporting Grounds in Bourke

These hours / watering conditions apply during level 1 and 2 and 3 restrictions only.

From November 2018 until level 4 water restrictions are activated.

- Davidson oval - no change to watering
- Central Park - no change to watering
- Coolican oval - no change to watering

During restrictions the above park and sporting ovals will be able to water during all hours Monday to Friday to maintain current standards. (16hrs each weekly total)

- Tourist centre- watering of lawns as per restrictions.
- Cemetery- watering of lawns as per restrictions.
- Airport Gardens-gardens only
- Wal Mitchell Wharf Precinct - watering of, Crossley Engine section and entrance area to wharf only as per restrictions.
- Jones Park- watering of lawns as per restrictions.
- North Bourke Oval –no watering.
- Percy Hobson Park - watering of lawns as per restrictions.
- Port of Bourke Park- watering of lawns as per restrictions.

During restrictions the above parks, recreational areas and sporting ovals will be able to water during the hours of 7.30am to 4.30pm (10 hrs each weekly total)

- Bourke Bowling Club greens and gardens -During restrictions the BBC will be able to water during the hours of 8.30am to 10.30am two (2hrs) Monday through Friday only. (10hrs weekly total)
- Golf Club-During restrictions the Golf Club will be able to water during the hours of 6.00pm to 8.00am Monday through Friday for shrubs and trees only
- Rotary Park-During restrictions the park will be able to water during the hours of 6.00am to 8.00pm Monday through Friday for a period of two (2) hrs a day only. (10 hrs weekly total)
- Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre- During water restrictions the BOB centre will be able to water during the hours of 8.00am until 1.00pm five (5hrs) on Tuesdays and Fridays only. (10hrs total weekly)
- Bourke High School-During water restrictions the school will be able to water during the hours of 6.30am until 11.30am five (5hrs) on Wednesdays and Thursdays only. (10hrs total weekly)
- Bourke Olympic Pool - During water restrictions the pool will only be able to water during the hours of 3.00am until 6.00am three (3 hrs) on Wednesdays and 8.00pm and 11.00pm, Fridays and Saturdays .(9hrs total weekly)

- Caravan Parks and Motels - During water restrictions the caravan parks and motels will only be able to water two (2) days a week at 5hrs per day. (10hrs total weekly).