



BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL
PRESS RELEASE

WATER CONSUMPTION STILL HIGH IN NORTH BOURKE DESPITE LEVEL
FIVE (5) WATER RESTRICTIONS

Due to the depletion of the available water in the weir pool to service Bourke and North Bourke Level 5 Water Restrictions were put in place effective, 9.00am, Sunday, 28th April 2019.

At the same time it was foreshadowed that the raw water to North Bourke would be suspended due to the extremely low level of water in the weir pool.

This action was delayed until satisfactory arrangements were put in place to ensure the availability of firefighting capability in North Bourke and didn't come into effect to later in the week.

With the rain and subsequent inflow into the weir pool the suspension was able to be lifted on Saturday, 4th May 2019, however, Level Five (5) Restrictions remained in place, which means that watering outside was to be by buckets only and the use of hoses and sprinklers banned.

Despite the introduction of Level Five (5) Restrictions the raw water consumption at North Bourke is still high with an average of nearly 150,000 litres being used per day.

Given that usage should be confined to buckets this equates to 15,000 buckets per day assuming a 10 litre bucket and this is despite the ground being still wet from the rain.

Mayor of Bourke Shire, Councillor Barry Hollman said he had asked the staff to investigate for possible leaks or other abnormality, but it would appear that the consumption figure is correct and it seems a very high amount and obviously it all hasn't been used by the filling of buckets.

General Manager of Bourke Shire Council, Ross Earl said that had it not been for the rain the situation would still be dire and there seems to be a lack of understanding of the situation by some people.

Mr Earl said that Council had done a considerable amount of work to ensure an ongoing water supply for Bourke and North Bourke while the recent rain and subsequent flow in the river systems have provided some respite, Level Five (5) Restrictions will stay in place until there is a substantive flow into the weir pool.

END

Contacts

General Manager of Bourke Ross Earl 0409362307 or Manager Works, Peter Brown 0488290662