



YOUNG SHIRE COUNCIL

WATER RESTRICTIONS

POLICY

NO 65

DATE ADOPTED: 21/8/13

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1 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Young Shire Council supplies drinking water to the township of Young. It is Council's duty of responsibility to maintain supply of water to its customers at all times including times of drought. The availability of the Shire's water relies upon on the water level of the Murrumbidgee River which is determined by climatic variability during the year. Water is extracted and transported to Burrinjuck Dam, where it is managed and supplied via a bulk supply arrangement not only to Young but to other shires by Goldenfields Water County Council (GWCC).

It is part of Young Shire Council's overall strategy, to reduce water demand during drought periods to manage its water supply. Water restrictions will be implemented in accordance with this policy to ensure the most efficient use of water is made during periods of water shortage to prolong supply and minimise disruptions to the community. Restrictions may only be applied in times of drought or water shortage conditions.

2 PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

- To provide guidelines for the management and implementation of water restriction levels.
- To conserve water during drought circumstances.
- To promote sensible water use.

3 STATEMENT

- Young water restrictions will generally be governed by the water allocation from GWCC.
- Young Shire Council's water restrictions will be put in place only when the supplier reduces or imposes reductions in water allocation. Restrictions from the supplier are generally dictated when NSW Office of Water (NOW) regards them as essential.

4 POLICY

- The General Manager of Young Shire Council is the delegated authority to impose and revoke water restrictions when it is considered necessary.
- Water restrictions will be applied when trigger points are reached. Information on water restriction triggers are detailed and explained in the Young Shire Council Drought Management and Emergency Response Plan.
- Water restrictions and water consumption practices will be closely monitored by Council's Utility Services Department.

4.1 NOTIFICATION OF WATER RESTRICTIONS

- Restrictions and their severity will be imposed by the General Manager and shall be advertised as required to achieve the necessary coverage. This may include local radio, newspaper and Council's webpage.
- Young Shire Council must give notice of water restrictions to anyone affected by the most appropriate means, having regard to the circumstances in which the restriction is imposed.
- Water restrictions notices will be advertised in the local media, except in emergencies. In emergencies, the notice will be given in the way the General Manager considers appropriate.
- Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, water restrictions do not take effect until the day after the notice is given.

4.2 EXEMPTIONS

- The General Manager (GM) or the Director of Utility Services (DUS) has the authority to issue exemptions following recommendations from Council's utility services staff when water restrictions are put in place.
- The GM or DUS may grant exemptions to water restrictions upon application from water users, based on the following grounds:
 - ◆ Public health and safety concerns.
 - ◆ To permit the undertaking of essential work.
 - ◆ Minor or infrequent uses of water outside the restrictions hours (e.g. sporting or community events), and
 - ◆ Any other criteria considered appropriate under the water supply conditions at the time.
- All Applications for exemptions must be submitted in writing using the relevant form

4.3 NON-COMPLIANCE WITH WATER RESTRICTIONS

- Fines for non-compliance of restrictions will be applied and enforced.
- Council has developed a water restrictions infringement disconnection notice form, which will be used when council officers detect infringements.
- Restrictions will be policed according to the urgency of the situation. Where breaches are detected, the consumer concerned will be notified in writing in the first and second instances. Further breaches will result in the installation of a restrictor in the supply line, and a removal fee will be imposed on the consumers responsible as set in the annual charges.

5 RESPONSIBILITY

Council's Department of Utility Services is responsible for the implementation of this policy. This policy shall be reviewed every four years, or as a result of any relevant legislative changes.

6 RELATED LEGISLATION/GUIDELINES

- Local Government Act 1993.
- Local Government Regulation 2005.
- Young Shire Council Drought Contingency and Emergency Response Plan.
- Young Shire Council Demand Management Plan.

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