



PROCEDURE NUMBER: PRO038

EFFECTIVE DATE: 16 April 2019

DEPARTMENT: Infrastructure and Utilities

UNIT: Water Utilities

## 1.0 Purpose and Scope

The Water restrictions procedure is a document to be used as a guide to implementation of the water restriction levels required to control demand for urban potable water. This is to allow the flexibility to operationally modify the actions developed in the Drought Management Plan 2009.

## 2.0 Reference

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008  
Central Highlands Regional Council Drought Management Plan (2009)

## 3.0 Definitions

**CEO** refers to Chief Executive Officer

**Council** refers to Central Highlands Regional Council

**L/P/d** shall mean litres per person per day

**The Act** shall mean the *Local Government Act 2009* (as amended).

**The Regulation** shall mean the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (as amended).

## 4.0 Procedure Statement

Central Highlands Regional Council, as the registered water service provider for the region, has the responsibility for the delivery of potable water supplies for the towns within the region.

Section 41 of the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act (WSSRA) allows providers to impose water restrictions for reasons, including, if:

- there is an urgent need for the water restriction
- the available water supply has fallen to a level at which unrestricted use of the water is not in the public interest
- the service provider has a reasonable and comprehensive strategy for demand management for water

The Central Highlands Regional Council Drought Management Plan was written in 2009. The plan contains the mechanisms for urban water demand management through implementation of water restrictions.

This procedure provides an operational update of the water restriction levels and triggers as developed in the Drought Management Plan.

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Council has delegated authority to the Mayor and CEO to instate appropriate water restrictions in communities (resolution 2014/11/26/005).

### Trigger levels for water restrictions

The Fairbairn Dam storage level can be used as the restriction trigger level for all townships, except for Capella and Rolleston, as this will be indicative of the current drought condition being experienced by over the council area. However, for each scheme the source needs to be monitored individually and if deemed necessary then the restriction level should be altered accordingly (either up or down). The triggers for Capella and Rolleston will be based on the level of each town's raw water storage dam. These triggers are shown in the table below.

Restriction Level	Fairbairn Dam	Capella Dams	Rolleston storage
0			
1	13%	40%	40%
2	10%	30%	30%
3	8%	15%	15%
4	6%	5%	5%

In considering the implementation of water restrictions for the townships supplied from the Nogoia Mackenzie scheme the dam level will be considered as the initial trigger, but consideration will also be given to announced high priority water allocations for the current and future years, and the amount of council's current available allocation.

### Water restrictions

The intent of the restriction levels is to give a 20% savings in water use as each level is implemented. Initial water use targets are as below:

Targets under Drought Management Plan	Emerald (L/EP/d)
Level Zero – baseline 2016 onwards	639
Level One	631
Level Two	505
Level Three	402
Level Four	323

The actions required under water restrictions at each of the five levels (0 to 5) are given in the restrictions table forming part of this procedure.

Water use will be monitored before and after each restriction level is implemented. Actions in the table will be considered for amendment if the savings targets are not met.

### Exemptions to water restrictions

The WSSRA does allow for the water service provider to grant exemptions to implemented water restrictions.

Water users, including internal council departments, are able to make a request to council for exemptions or changes to water restrictions.

These will be considered by initially by Manager Water Utilities. Simple exemptions which still meet the intent of the savings targets, such as changes to watering hours, will be subject to the approval of the Manager Water Utilities.

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Major exemptions, such as decisions on the watering of strategic parks or facilities, may require the approval of the Council.

## 5.0 Procedure Review

This procedure will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. As required by Legislation
2. The related documents are amended or replaced.
3. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of Council
4. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by the Chief Executive

Notwithstanding the above, this procedure is to be reviewed at intervals of no more than four (4) years.

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