



NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

Tougher water restrictions in Macquarie Valley but some good news for Cobar

6 November, 2007

All Macquarie Valley councils were today advised to immediately implement tougher water restrictions equivalent to level 3A.

The town water supply allocation for Cobar Shire Council has been increased to 85 per cent to enable Council to ease its current level 5 water restrictions to level 3A in line with other Councils in the area.

We are in the midst of the worst drought in recorded history and the situation in the State's Central West is worsening.

Inflows are well below the long-term average and with warmer, drier months approaching we must act now to secure more water for critical needs such as town water supply.

While restriction levels differ slightly between councils level 3A water restrictions essentially mean:

- **No watering of lawns;**
- **No use of manual sprinkler systems;**
- **No hosing of vehicles – bucket wash or commercial car wash only;**
- **No hosing of hard surfaces, except for construction, OH&S or emergency purposes;**
- **No filling of pools or spas;**
- **Limited watering of gardens during specified hours; and**
- **Limited watering of some sports grounds during specified hours.**

The NSW Government understands the strain this will place on residents – it's hard to watch your lawn and public parks turn brown.

However, keeping lawns green is a luxury we simply can't afford when it comes at the expense of securing enough water for next year. Similar water restrictions had been implemented in other river systems including the Murray Valley.

The increase to Cobar's town water supply will meet the town's immediate water requirements and should meet requirements for the rest of the water year.

In addition, Cobar Shire Council has been invited to work with the Department of Water and Energy to better plan for the town's long-term water needs during severe water shortages.

With most of the State in drought and Burrendong Dam on the Macquarie River at only 12 per cent of its full capacity, it is important that everyone continues to be water wise.

Macquarie Valley residents are advised to contact their local council to find out more about level 3A restrictions in their local government area.