

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE WASHING

for Stage 2 and 3 water restrictions

The Drought Response Plan imposes restrictions on vehicle washing. A vehicle includes:

- A car
- A boat
- A truck
- An aeroplane
- Any other vehicle whatsoever – however it is propelled or moved

Commercial vehicle washers must do the following to comply with Stage 2 and 3 water restrictions:

- Stage 2 – use a maximum of 100 litres of water to clean a vehicle and submit a Water Conservation Plan
- Stage 3 – use a maximum of 70 litres of water to clean a vehicle and submit a Water Conservation Plan

The steps below outline the key elements that need to be completed in order to submit a **Water Conservation Plan Report** which is available from your local water retailer's website (listed below).

1. Adequate Information

Adequate information is required to ensure that we know who/what company is applying to be certified as Compliant for staged water restrictions

- Please ensure **all details are filled out** on the form.
- If you are selecting **option 1**, make sure you *send in a copy of the welcome/acceptance letter stating you have been accepted as a Member of the Water Rating Scheme*, more information is available at: www.carwashwater.com.au
- If you are selecting option 2, please ensure you attach **all** documents requested of you, these are outlined below.

2. Self Assessment

Self Assessment is the minimum starting point for responsible management of water use. You must know how much water you use in your washing process to make sure that you will become/remains compliant in Stage 2 and 3 water restrictions.

- Your self assessment should show us how much water you use at each stage of a standard wash
- All of these stages should calculate to a total.
- There are three methods of calculating this:
 - **Theoretical method** – mathematically via the flow rate and time.
 - **Meter read method** – reading the meter before and after the wash
 - **Volumetric method** – measuring the amount of water you would use in a metered vessel, such as a water drum of known capacity.

3. Independent Audit

An Independent Audit is required to ensure that your self assessment is accurate and can be relied upon by the water industry when determining your compliance status.

- Car or boat sales yards, mobile or fixed vehicle detailers/cleaners not using any automatic equipment may use a licensed plumber to perform their Independent Audit; the plumber must provide a letter on his/her letterhead and quoting his/her Plumbing Industry Commission license number.
- If you have any automated equipment onsite including any fixed bay washing, you are required to be audited by a qualified auditor with a mix of quality insurance and hydraulic design (engineering) skills.

4. Signage

Signage is required to be erected to minimise complaints in relation to your use of water. Complaints could be directed to you or your water retailer, which may result in unwarranted investigations.

- Your signage is required to be a minimum size of A3 and be clearly visible in public view at all times of vehicle cleaning.
- Preferably, we would like a photo of the sign erected and in view, alternatively a mock example sent with your application will suffice.
- An example of what should be on the sign is "Working with water restrictions under an approved water conservation plan to save water.... XX litres of mains water per vehicle" however, other variations can be submitted for approval.
- If you are running multiple types of equipment, we require separate signage for each type e.g. an auto bay wash would require a separate sign from a self serve bay wash.

5. Water Conservation Plan

The water retailer must be assured that the volumes of water measured as part of the self assessment and independent audit remain constant in the long term. This requirement considers what you will do to ensure that your water use does not increase over time.

There should be three parts to your water conservation plan

1. **How you wash** – take this information from your self assessment and write it into words and figures
2. **How you are going to keep the same level of water usage** – include equipment maintenance schedules, equipment replacement schedules, best practice guidelines, such as educating your staff how to minimize their water usage while performing each task and anything else you utilise to keep your water usage at this level.
3. **How you might reduce your water usage** – examples include installation of tanks, reclaim systems, waterless washing or alternative water sources such as bore or recycled water

Should you seek any clarification on any of these topics, please feel free to contact your local water business, listed below.



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