

Water Allocations for Sports Facilities

Under Stage 3 & 3a water restrictions, watering of sports facilities must be carried out in accordance with the Drought Response Plan. Currently there are two options available to Councils:

1. Watering under a 'Water Allocation'
2. Watering under a '1 in 4' arrangement
(refer to your water utility website for this application form).

This form refers to requesting approval for a Water Allocation. Under a Water Allocation, Councils can water facilities subject to submitting a Water Conservation Plan (WCP) to their water utility for approval. The WCP must identify the actions proposed to achieve best practice water use across their sports facilities.

At the completion of this application form, please attach a list of all irrigated sports facilities associated with your Council.

Signage must be erected for Sportsgrounds with approval to water in accordance with a WCP. The signs must read – 'working within water restrictions under an approved Water Conservation Plan to save water'. Erection of the sign is required, with the cost to be borne by the Council.

Note: Under Stage 3 & 3a restrictions, for areas other than exempt playing surfaces, a lawn area, passive open space/parkland/playground, must not be watered at any time.

Applicant Details

Name of Council: _____

Contact Name & Title: _____

Contact Number (Bus): _____

Mobile Number: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____ Melways Ref: _____

Water Conservation Plan application submitted at Stage: _____ Date: _____

Council CEO signature: _____

Note: Water utilities may audit property or facilities for compliance at any time.



City West Water
LIMITED

Locked Bag 350, Sunshine, Vic 3020
Tel 131 691 Fax 9313 8417
DX 30311

www.citywestwater.com.au

GOVERNMENT WATER RETAILERS

SOUTH EAST
WATER



Locked Bag 1, Heatherton, Vic 3202
Tel 131 867 Fax 9552 3099
DX 38006 Moorabbin

www.southeastwater.com.au



PO Box 2371, Sunbury DC, 3429
Tel 1300 650 425

www.westernwater.com.au



Yarra Valley Water

Private Bag 1, Mitcham, Vic 3132
Tel 131 721 Fax 9872 1401
DX 13204

www.yarravalleywater.com.au

Water Allocations for Sports Facilities

Guidelines for Water Conservation Plans

1 in 4 Sportsgrounds

Refer to your water utility's website for a separate application form.

Water Allocation Scheme

- Council may water any irrigated sports facility
- Council must not exceed its water usage allocation issued by their water utility
- Council to submit monthly water usage to water utility
- Council may need to have a separate water meter for irrigation
- Councils must complete a Water Conservation Plan (WCP).

The WCP is valid for Stage 3 and 3a restrictions and Councils must pursue the determined initiatives to reduce water consumption, moving to best practice. For example, install dual flush toilets, rainwater tank or alternate sources of water.

Complete a Water Conservation Plan, including:

- Provide total m² of irrigated area (sportsgrounds only)
- Provide details regarding turf species for each irrigated sportsground
- Provide refurbishment plan for ovals requiring transition to optimum drought tolerant species by July 2008
 - Target to have all ovals transitioned within 3 years
- Put in place a plan for installation of check water meters where required (no long term absence of metered volumes will be allowed)
- Ability to adequately measure and preferably meter consumption
 - Implement permanent real time consumption monitoring by 31 October 2008 for monitoring by both the Council and water utility
 - Implement permanent real time central control of irrigation systems by 31 October 2008
- Complete audit of the efficiency of irrigation systems by July 2008. (Note: not required if an audit has been completed within last 6 months)
- Monthly monitoring and reporting of water consumption
- Quarterly reporting on progress of all other initiatives, including turf refurbishment plan
- Community communications plan
 - Publish watering plan on-line – needs to be comprehensive i.e. where, what day, hours water required
 - Display signage; engage in public communications, etc.
- Associated indoor savings for facilities attached to sportsgrounds by 31 October 2008

Approval may be revoked by your water utility at any time in writing and no longer applies when a higher stage of restrictions is imposed.

Application forms should be addressed to your relevant water utility's address (see overleaf).

Where approval is granted, a kit will be provided to the Council that includes the water usage allocation, water usage tracking requirements and compulsory signage requirements.

Frequently Asked Questions

Water Conservation Plan Application Process

Q: What can the water allocation be used for?

A: Your water allocation can be used to irrigate sports facilities only (it cannot be used to irrigate parks, gardens or public open space).

Q: Is the use of a water allocation optional?

A: Yes, the allocation scheme is an option for councils, with the alternative being to remain on the existing '1 in 4' watering arrangement.

Q: How is the water usage allocation calculated?

A: Your allocation will be calculated using consumption data from your irrigated sports facilities under the current watering arrangements.

Water consumption during 2007 Stage 3 & 3a restrictions (Jan-Dec) will form the basis for your allocation.

You will be provided a pro-rata allocation from the time your application is approved until 30 June 2008. Should Stage 3a restrictions continue beyond 30 June 2008, you will be provided a further allocation for 2007/08 – again based on 2007 consumption of your irrigated sports facilities.

Q: What happens if my council doesn't meet its water usage allocation?

A: Given the relationships that exist with local government it is not anticipated that Councils will do the wrong thing, however where it is apparent that the rules are being flouted the access to the allocation water will be withdrawn and Councils will revert to the '1 in 4' watering policy and still be subject to the punitive measures that are currently available under that scheme.

Q: How long will approval of the WCP last?

A: The WCP approval will be valid for Stage 3 and 3a water restrictions.

Q: Are there any requirements placed on Councils?

A: Yes, in accordance with the Drought Response Plan, Councils will be required to submit a WCP that demonstrates that it meets the specific requirements of the allocation framework.

Q: Are schools and private sportsground operators allowed to participate?

A: No, at this point in time, the scheme is only for irrigated sports facilities for Councils.

Q: What happens if Stage 4 is introduced?

A: As with any transition from one stage of restrictions to another, WCP approval and any exemptions granted under stage 3 no longer apply.

Q: How long will it take to process my application form once it has been submitted?

A: Your water utility will endeavour to process your application as soon as possible. You will then be sent a kit that includes your water usage allocation, water usage tracking requirements and compulsory signage requirements.

Provided your application contains all the required information, it is expected that processing will take approximately 5-10 business days.

Q: My ground doesn't have a water meter – can we participate?

A: Yes, you can participate, but you may have to install a water meter to separately meter the ground's irrigation at your own expense. Your water utility will assess and advise you when they respond to your WCP application. For example, if the nominated ground is located on the same site as other facilities, it may be necessary to have a separate meter so you can track the ground's water consumption and ensure you meet your usage allocation.

When installing a new water meter, contact your water utility for guidance to ensure you install the appropriate type of meter.

Q: What if the weather is unusually hot and dry, and the water usage allocation cannot be met?

A: The target is based on 2007 consumption data, which was an extremely hot and dry year. You may utilise alternative water sources such as recycled water to supplement your supply.

Q: Why have you based the target on historical usage rather than a best practice benchmark?

A: A target based on historical usage has been identified as the best way to avoid discriminating against any council. However, the WCP guidelines ensure all Councils are transitioning to best practice.

Q: Can Council carry over any unused water allocation to the next allocation period?

A: No, all water allocated can only be used within the allocation period.