

# Water Allocations for Sports Grounds

## 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 ground
- 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 m<sup>2</sup> 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
  - 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 within 6 months for monitoring by both the Council and water utility
  - Implement permanent real time central control of irrigation systems within 6 months
- Complete audit of the efficiency of irrigation systems within 6 months. (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 within 6 months

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 grounds 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 from the 1 in 4 sportsgrounds under your already approved water conservation plan.

You will be provided with an annual allocation volume based on the 25% reduction target of consumption from a 12 month period from 1 March 2005 to 31 August 2006 on your 1 in 4 nominated irrigated sportsgrounds.

#### 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 not meet this requirement, 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: Yes, provided the relevant criteria are met.

#### 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 previous stages 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.