

# COMMERCIAL VEHICLE WASHING

## 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, 3 and 3a water restrictions:

- Stage 2 – use a maximum of 100 litres of water to clean a vehicle and submit a Water Conservation Plan
- Stage 3 and 3a – 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 utility'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](http://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, 3 and 3a 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 compliance.

- 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 quote 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 utility, 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 utility 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 on how to minimise water usage while performing each task and anything else you utilise to keep 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 utility, listed below.**



City West Water  
LIMITED

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

[www.citywestwater.com.au](http://www.citywestwater.com.au)

GOVERNMENT WATER RETAILERS



SOUTH EAST  
WATER  
Tel 131 867 Fax 9552 3099  
DX 38006 Moorabbin

[www.southeastwater.com.au](http://www.southeastwater.com.au)



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

[www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au)



Yarra Valley Water

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

[www.yarrawalleywater.com.au](http://www.yarrawalleywater.com.au)

## Option 1 - Independent Audit

Please answer the following, if you have chosen Option 1, by circling Yes or No.

### Section 1 – Independent Audit

1. Has the carwash been independently audited by the Water Rating Scheme's auditor? **Yes / No**  
a. If Yes - Please attach certificate  
b. If No - Are you a member of the Car Wash Rating Scheme? **Yes / No**  
c. If Yes - Do you have a letter from the Scheme Manager accepting your Application? **Yes / No**

Is there a scheduled Audit within 3 months after the date on which you complete this Report?  
*(Please attach a copy of the Scheme Manager's letter)* **Yes / No**

### Section 2 - Signs

1. Are prominent signs displayed at the point of operation of the carwash which inform customers and water patrols of the amount of potable water used for every vehicle washed, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Rating Scheme? **Yes / No**

### Section 3 - Water Conservation Plan

1. Have you completed a Water Conservation Plan for the carwash in accordance with the requirements of the Water Rating Scheme? **Yes / No**  
2. Is a copy of the Water Conservation Plan available at the point of operation of the carwash? **Yes / No**

### Section 4 -Types of Compliant Carwash

As a result of applying the assessment processes in accordance with the Water Rating Scheme which of the following types of carwash do you certify use no more than 100 litres of potable water for every vehicle washed? *(Please circle each applicable type)*

**Self Serve    Auto    Hand Wash    Mobile    Other (please specify) .....**

As a result of applying the assessment processes in accordance with the Water Rating Scheme which of the following types of carwash do you certify use no more than 70 litres of potable water for every vehicle washed? *(Please circle each applicable type)*

**Self Serve    Auto    Hand Wash    Mobile    Other (please specify) .....**

## Option 2 - Self Assessment

### Section 1 - Self assessment of water usage per car washed

1. Does the carwash use less than 100 litres of potable water for every vehicle washed, as measured in accordance with the methodologies of the Water Rating Scheme? **Yes / No**  
2. Does the carwash use less than 70 litres of potable water for every vehicle washed, as measured in accordance with the methodologies of the Water Rating Scheme? **Yes / No**

If you have chosen option 2, you must prepare a Water Conservation Plan acceptable to your water utility. In order to be approved, the Water Conservation Plan will need to demonstrate that:

- (a) the potable water consumption for each vehicle washed by the carwash has been assessed;  
(b) during Stage 2 restrictions, the carwash will not use more than 100 litres of potable water for every vehicle washed;  
(c) the use of water by the carwash has been, or will be, independently audited by an appropriately qualified and experienced auditor, applying auditing and measuring techniques acceptable to your water utility;  
(d) signs will be prominently displayed at the point of operation of your carwash, which inform customers and water patrols of the amount of potable water used for every vehicle washed;  
(e) there are appropriate means of ensuring that the commercial carwash continues:  
(i) not to use more than 100 litres of potable water for every vehicle washed during Stage 2 restrictions; and  
(ii) to improve the way in which it uses and manages water;  
(f) the plan envisages an appropriate different level of use of potable water for every vehicle washed, for each washing technique used at the commercial carwash (for example, self-service, automatic and hand-washing.)

If you want your commercial carwash to be able to operate during Stage 3 and Stage 3a restrictions, your Water Conservation Plan will need to demonstrate the same matters, but with a limit of 70 litres of potable water for every vehicle washed.

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

## Customer Declaration

I state that all the information provided in this Water Conservation Plan Report and any attached Water Conservation Plan is true and correct. I acknowledge that it is an offence not to comply with water restrictions and that substantial penalties apply to such failure to comply, including fines, imprisonment and restriction of water supply.

Name..... Signed..... Date.....

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Name of authorised person:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: Yes  No  Specific conditions: Yes  No

Provide specific details:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_