

## ATTACHMENT 1

### POLICY ON TEMPORARY WATER RESTRICTIONS

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION: POLICY CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the water restriction policy is to allow for effective and efficient management of short term issues with the supply and demand balance of reticulated water supplies. This is in line with the following clauses of the Water By-Law 2008:

- Clause 7.6.3 refers to Demand Management and states that, *“The Customer shall comply with any restrictions which may be approved by the Council to manage high seasonal or other demands (which may also be related to Otago Regional Council resource consent compliance requirements or any variation to a resource consent). Such restrictions will be publicly notified.*

*Even when such restrictions apply the Council will take all practicable steps to ensure that an adequate supply for domestic purposes is provided to each Point of Supply.”*

- Clause 7.6.4 refers to Emergency Restriction and states that, *“During an emergency the Council may restrict or prohibit the use of water for any specified purpose, for any specified period, and for any or all of its customers. Such restrictions shall be publicly notified. The Council may enact penalties over and above those contained in these conditions to enforce these restrictions. The decision to make and lift restrictions and to enact additional penalties shall be made by the Council, or where immediate action is required, by the Manager of the WWSBU, subject to Council ratification.”*

The Council has ongoing programmes to ensure that the strategic balance between water resource availability and community water requirements is maintained. However, there may be occasions when, either through exceptional weather events or operational emergencies, it is necessary to impose water use restrictions to ensure that the community's essential water needs can still be met.

This policy has been developed based on the best Australasian practice taking into consideration Dunedin's specific context in terms of overall water resource availability, consent requirements, operational constraints and patterns of community water use.

#### 2.0 IMPOSING AND LIFTING RESTRICTION

Water restrictions may be required under the following circumstances:

- Prolonged drought condition
- Exceptional peaks in water demand that cannot be met without breaching resource consent levels and/or exceeding supply capacity)
- Operational emergency (eg unplanned water treatment plant shutdown, and other treatment plants unable to provide sufficient supply)

The Water and Waste Services Business Unit routinely monitors a number of parameters relating to the water supply and demand balance. A number of key parameters have been defined, which are used to determine the enforcement of water restrictions. These parameters include:

- river water levels;
- raw water storage levels;
- the time of the year and likely future consumption of water;
- daily consumption/demand levels in the immediately preceding period;
- currently available weather forecasts and other meteorological advice;
- resource consent on water intake levels;
- actions by other relevant organisations, eg National Fire Authority fire risk, ORC irrigation restrictions;
- failure of key facilities
- the desirability of reducing water usage on an ongoing basis;
- the desirability of avoiding excessive reliance on only one water catchment;

- the possibility that if restrictions do not sufficiently reduce current water consumption, water available for later supply may be of a quality that may cause damage to property.

The trigger levels for the respective levels will depend on the Multi-Criteria Decision Making Matrix, which consists of the parameters stated above.

The restriction shall remain in force for as long as is necessary to allow supply and demand patterns to return to normal operating levels and shall only be lifted once the operating parameters return to below the trigger levels.

In accordance to the level of restrictions presented in the proceeding section, the Water and Waste Services Manager will have the delegated authority to implement or remove level 1, 2 and 3 water restrictions. Level 4 water restrictions will require the General Manager's approval.

### **3.0 LEVELS OF RESTRICTION**

The restrictions consist of Level 1, 2, 3 and 4, which bring in increasingly stringent restrictions. Appendix 1 provides the details of the restrictions, the targeted activities and the expected reduction.

Prior to enforcing the restrictions, a precautionary approach will be undertaken. This approach is to pre-empt the consumers of possible forthcoming restrictions and urge them to be prudent in their water use. This is to be achieved via media notification and other appropriate methods.

There may be extreme situations where more rigorous measure are required, including but not limited to rationing or pressure management. In these situations, a water event management plan would be drafted for EMT's approval.

### **4.0 ENFORCEMENT**

The restriction will be publicly notified via newspapers and other suitable media.

During the period of the restriction, adherence of the public to the restriction will be checked. Failure to comply to the restriction is deemed a breach of the Terms and Conditions to supply as stated in Clause 8.1(e)(v). Appropriate action will be taken against any person caught violating the restriction, which is allowed for under Clauses 8.4 and 8.5 of the Water By-Law 2008:

- Clause 8.4 refers to entitlement of the Council and states that, *"The Council is entitled to take any steps it is legally authorised to take to enforce breaches of the Bylaw and/or the Act.*
- Clause 8.5 refers to the consequence of offences, which states, *"Every person who:*
  - a) Fails to comply with or acts in contravention of any provision of this Bylaw; or*
  - b) Breaches the conditions of supply granted pursuant to this Bylaw; or*
  - c) Fails to comply with a notice served under this Bylaw,*

*commits an offence under section 239 of the Act and is liable to be prosecuted in the District Court under section 244 of the Act and is liable to a fine as specified in section 242 of the Act, or is liable to the issue of an infringement notice under section 245 of the Act.*

### **5.0 EXEMPTIONS**

Full or partial exemptions may be granted, without limiting the grounds on which it might be granted, based on compelling reasons only. The reasons include health or public hygiene or where compliance with temporary restrictions would be likely to cause disproportionate or unintended financial damage to the party. The exemptions or the partial exemptions will only be granted in writing by the Council.

The Water and Waste Services Manager will have the delegated authority to grant the exemptions for the period of Restriction Level 1, 2 and 3. During the extreme situations, where level 4 water restriction is to be enforced, EMT/GM will determine any exemptions.

## APPENDIX 1: WATER RESTRICTION LEVELS

The Table provides details of the water restriction stages

|                                                                                                    | <b>Level 1</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Level 2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Level 3</b>                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Target Annual Reduction</b> (% of Average Daily Consumption)                                    | <b>10 %</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>17 %</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>20 %</b>                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Type of Usage</b>                                                                               | Restrictions on Use                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Restrictions on Use                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Restrictions on Use                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>1. Watering of private gardens and lawns</b>                                                    | No sprinkler or other irrigation system between 8.00am and 8.00pm. Hand-held hosing only at any time.                                                                                                                                      | No hand-held hosing, sprinkler or other irrigation system allowed between 8.00am and 8.00pm.                                                                                                                                               | Watering of outside lawns and plants only permitted using buckets/watering cans.                                                                                       |
| <b>2. Watering of lawns and plants at parks, sports amenities, golf courses and public gardens</b> | No sprinklers between 8.00am and 8.00pm. Hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle may be used to water lawns and plants at any time.                                                                                                    | No sprinkler or other irrigation system between 8.00am and 8.00pm. Hand-held hosing at any time.                                                                                                                                           | No sprinkler or other irrigation system. Hand-held hosing only at any time.                                                                                            |
| <b>3. Watering of commercial nurseries/ garden</b>                                                 | No sprinkler between 8.00am and 8.00pm. Hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle may be used to water lawns and plants at any time.                                                                                                     | No sprinkler or other irrigation system between 8.00am and 8.00pm. Hand-held hosing at any time.                                                                                                                                           | No sprinkler or other irrigation system. Hand-held hosing only at any time.                                                                                            |
| <b>4. Filling of private ponds and fountains</b>                                                   | Fountains must be switched off. Ponds may only be topped up using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or by bucket between 8.00pm and 8.00am.                                                                                    | Fountains must be switched off. Only ponds that support fish may be topped up and then only using a hand- held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or by bucket between 8.00pm and 8.00am.                                                   | Fountains must be switched off. Only ponds that support fish may be topped up, and then only using a bucket between 8.00pm and 8.00am.                                 |
| <b>5. Public ponds and fountains</b>                                                               | Only fountains that recirculate water may be operated. Ponds may only be topped up using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or by bucket between 8.00pm and 8.00am.                                                             | Only fountains that recirculate water may be operated. Ponds may only be topped up using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or by bucket between 8.00pm and 8.00am.                                                             | No fountains may be operated, filled or topped up with water at any time. Only ponds that support fish may be topped up using a bucket only between 8.00pm and 8.00am. |
| <b>6. Private swimming pools</b>                                                                   | Topping up or filling is undertaken with a hand-held hose only between 8.00pm and 8.00am.                                                                                                                                                  | Topping up or filling is undertaken with a hand-held hose only between 8.00pm and 8.00am.                                                                                                                                                  | No filling or top-up at any time.                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>7. Public/commercial swimming pools (eg Moana Pool)</b>                                         | No restrictions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | No restrictions                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Topping up only between 8.00pm and 8.00am.                                                                                                                             |
| <b>9. Vehicles</b>                                                                                 | If not washed at a commercial car wash, any vehicle should be washed on a lawn or other porous surface wherever practicable only be between 8.00pm and 8.00am.                                                                             | If not washed at a commercial car wash, any vehicle should be washed on a lawn or other porous surface wherever practicable only between 8.00pm and 8.00am.                                                                                | Bucket cleaning only.                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>10. Water blasting / washing of assets, eg windows, roof, boats</b>                             | No washing between 8.00am and 8.00pm unless necessary as a result of major activities that cannot be done during winter (eg roof painting), accident, fire, health hazard or other emergency. Building gutters may be cleaned at any time. | No washing between 8.00am and 8.00pm unless necessary as a result of major activities that cannot be done during winter (eg roof painting), accident, fire, health hazard or other emergency. Building gutters may be cleaned at any time. | Bucket cleaning only unless necessary as a result of accident, fire, health hazard or other emergency. Building gutters may be cleaned at any time.                    |

Notes:

- Any other water uses that are not indicated in the policy or do not fall under similar categories are allowed during the restrictions unless instructed by Dunedin City Council through the Water and Waster Services Business Unit.

2. "Private" means domestic properties only.
3. "Public" means Government places and private places operated for public use.
4. "Sprinkler" and "Irrigation System" means a device or system designed to distribute water, whether by sprinkling, spraying, dripping, weeping or otherwise.
5. "Trigger nozzle" means a nozzle, attached to a hand-held hose, which is controlled by (a) a trigger which must be depressed continuously or locked open by hand to allow water to flow; or (b) a discrete switch or button which can be turned on or off by hand with a single or limited movement.
6. Times specified may be changed depending on the seasonal change.