

3 January 2020

Media Release

Stage 3 water restrictions rolling out in Scamander

Stage 3 water restrictions for Scamander will be implemented from 3 January 2020 until the end of March 2020.

Over the last two weeks there has been a dramatic drop in the daily flow of the Scamander River. Due to this unprecedented situation, we are now forced to tighten restrictions by implementing stage 3 restrictions for Scamander.

The decision to escalate water restrictions only comes after careful consideration of the advice of TasWater's engineers and scientists who continually monitor the drinking water network across the state.

"The town is currently on stage 1 water restrictions, which were implemented from 23 December 2019. The unprecedented low river flows in conjunction with typical summer demand have necessitated the need to move to stage 3 restrictions," TasWater Department Manager Community, Stakeholder and Customer Relations Ruth Dowty said.

"We have been monitoring the river flows, town consumption and weir levels daily, with flows being the lowest we have on our records."

TasWater is working on a longer-term strategy for Scamander and the whole of the East Coast for this summer and into the future.

In this unique situation we are arranging alternate supplies to meet essential customer demand.

Stage 3 restrictions are designed to reduce non-essential use of water by approximately 75 per cent of average consumption. Watering of residential, public and commercial gardens is limited to levels intended to prevent long term vegetation damage and watering of lawns is banned.

"We wish to thank the Scamander community for their support during the stage 1 restrictions and look forward to their ongoing assistance," Ruth said.

Information about the stage 3 water restrictions can be found on TasWater's website www.taswater.com.au/waterrestrictions.

What do stage 3 water restrictions mean?

The aim of stage 3 restrictions is to reduce non-essential water usage by 75 per cent of average consumption.

Residential, public and commercial gardens and lawns grounds

Garden watering is restricted to allocated days*** during the following times:

- * Manual watering systems: 6am and 8am, and 8pm and 10pm
- Handheld hoses with a trigger nozzle, buckets or watering cans: 6am and 8am, and 8pm and 10pm

- No other sprinkler/spray systems are allowed, ** automated systems are banned
- Watering of lawns is banned at all times.

*Manual watering systems are those that physically require a tap to be turned on, this includes taps with shut off timers

**Automatic watering systems are any systems that include electronic control units

***Allocated days:

Odd-numbered properties may water on odd dates for example the 1st, 3rd, 5th and so on

Even and no-numbered properties may water on even dates for example the 2nd, 4th, 6th, and so on;

All properties may water on the 31st of any month or the 29th of February

Sporting grounds

Watering of non-exempt playing surfaces is banned. Exempt surfaces (i.e. cricket pitch, golf and bowling greens, croquet greens, tennis courts, golf tees and greens and synthetic hockey pitches) can be watered on allocated days*** during the following times:

- *Manual watering systems: 6am and 8am, and 8pm and 10pm
- **Automatic watering systems: midnight and 4am
- Handheld hoses with a trigger nozzle, buckets or watering cans: 6am and 8am, and 8pm and 10pm.

*Manual watering systems are those that physically require a tap to be turned on, this includes taps with shut off timers

**Automatic watering systems are any systems that include electronic control units

***Allocated days:

Odd-numbered properties may water on odd dates for example the 1st, 3rd, 5th and so on

Even and no-numbered properties may water on even dates for example the 2nd, 4th, 6th, and so on;

All properties may water on the 31st of any month or the 29th of February

Paving, concrete and other hard surfaces

Hosing of these surfaces is banned – except in an emergency, or for construction, health and safety purposes

Washing vehicles

Vehicles may be washed for health and safety reasons at any time or day, in which case the windows and lights must be washed and rinsed by means of a bucket filled directly from the tap (use of a hose is not permitted).

Commercial carwashes (using less than 70 litres of water per vehicle where water is drawn from a TasWater reticulated water system) can be used at any time or day.

Residential or commercial pools and spas

Pools and spas cannot be filled, added to or replaced without prior written approval from TasWater

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