

30 January 2020

Media Release

Water restrictions increased on Flinders Island as work soon commences

A project to improve the water security on Flinders Island will soon commence.

The Henderson Dam project will provide residents in Whitemark with greater drinking water security by improving the amount of bulk water storage available. This will be done by increasing the height of Henderson Dam which will more than double its storage volume from 40 megalitres to 85 megalitres.

The Island is currently facing stage 1 water restrictions, like much of Tasmania, due to low rainfall and dry conditions.

In preparation for the Henderson Dam upgrade the Whitemark area will be required to go on stage 2 water restrictions from 1 February 2020, throughout the period of the works.

This will enable the retention of storage levels in preparation for the project's commencement.

"Whitemark is supplied by raw water stored in the Henderson Dam, the dam needs to be emptied of its stored water to allow construction works to increase its storage capacity," TasWater Manager Asset Strategy Duncan Sinclair said.

"The dam's current storage level is low due to the current conditions, demonstrating the need for an upgrade to bolster supplies during times of higher rainfall."

"During this period, we will also be improving the dam's risk profile and carry out any dam repairs."

"The reduction in raw water storage volume, as a result of emptying the dam, introduces a risk of water supply to Whitemark residents."

To ensure Whitemark residents have a continuous water supply a Sea Water Reverse Osmosis Plant will be temporarily installed at Lady Barron at a later date and water carting will occur between this plant to the Whitemark Water Treatment Plant.

"Reverse Osmosis is a water treatment process which uses fine membranes to remove salt from seawater and brackish water to produce safe drinking water," Duncan said.

The stage 2 water restrictions will help reduce the amount of water needed to be produced by the Reverse Osmosis Plant and the number of trucks operating on the road network.

This will ensure water is sufficiently supplied to Whitemark during this time.

The water restrictions will be in effect from 1 February 2020 until rainfall fills storages post completion which is set to be the end of April 2020.

TasWater appreciates the support of the Whitemark community during this time and looks forward to providing the area with greater water surety once the project is complete.



The project will be delivered by The Capital Delivery Office, which TasWater has established with an alliance partner to manage the planning and delivery of substantial capital works.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about this project, please contact TasWater's CDO Community Engagement Officer, Cassandra Wells, on 13 6992 or via email:

enquiries@taswater.com.au

More information on water restrictions can be found on TasWater's website,

www.taswater.com.au/waterrestrictions

What do stage 2 water restrictions mean?

The aim of Stage 2 restrictions is to reduce non-essential water usage by 50 per cent of average consumption.

Residential, public and commercial gardens and lawns

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

- Manual watering systems: 6am - 8am, and 8pm - 10pm*
- Automatic watering systems: 12am - 4am**
- Handheld hoses with a trigger nozzle, a bucket or watering cans: may be used at any time
- Watering of lawns is not permitted at any time

Sporting grounds

Watering of sports grounds is restricted to allocated*** days during the following times:

- Manual watering systems: 6am - 8am, 8pm and 10pm*
- Automatic watering systems: 12am and 4am**
- Handheld hoses with a trigger nozzle, a bucket or watering can be used at any time

Paving, concrete and other hard surfaces

- Spot cleaning for safety, health, animal welfare or emergency reasons with a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or with high pressure cleaning equipment is permitted
- For construction, using water for dust or pollutant suppression, or earth compaction by means of a hose fitted with a flow cut-off device or a vehicle fitted with sprinklers is permitted
- Hosing for general cleaning of hard surfaces such as paths, driveways and paved areas is not permitted at any time

Washing vehicles

- A bucket, high pressure cleaning device or commercial car wash can be used at any time
- A handheld hose fitted with a trigger is not permitted for pre-rinsing and rinsing at home.

Residential or commercial pools and spas

- Emptying and refilling existing pools, and filling new pools and spas: -
- Up to 2,000 litres: may only be refilled, or filled for the first time, using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, a bucket or automatic water top-up device
- More than 2,000 litres may only be refilled, or filled for the first time when the property owner has an approved Exemption – swimming pool or spa filling from TasWater



- Topping up pools and spas: -
- may only be topped up using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, a bucket, or automatic water top-up device for a maximum of 15 minutes per day only to replace water lost through evaporation, not removed for other purposes

**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

Ends..