



We're getting ready for water restrictions

Greater Sydney is in drought. As set by the Metropolitan Water Plan, when dam levels drop to 50%, water restrictions will be introduced.

Proposed water restrictions

Sydney Water has developed a draft proposal of water restrictions for 2019 to save water if the drought continues. We are preparing for water restrictions.

The proposed water restrictions have been based on the Metropolitan Water Plan's recommendation of what water savings we should aim for.

This is our current recommendation based on the trajectory of this drought so far and based on the best information we have.

The NSW Government will decide what restrictions to implement and then they will be gazetted.

Water restrictions apply to everyone. To limit the impact on businesses, we are proposing:

- **Exclusions:** A list of water types and uses where restrictions won't apply. These also apply to residential customers.
- **Exemptions:** Granted to businesses that rely on outdoor water use to minimise the impact of water restrictions on critical activities.

Exemptions are based on your industry or business and relate to outdoor water use only.



To find out what exemptions may apply to you, complete a 5-minute survey at sydneywatertalk.com.au

We want to hear from you

We are engaging with the non-residential sector ahead of implementing water restrictions.

For some of our non-residential customers, outdoor water is essential to their core business. That's why we are putting in exclusions and an exemption process to allow them to continue to do business.

While we need to manage water demand during the drought, we don't want to put anyone out of business.

We want to hear your feedback on the exemptions we've put in place for your industry and business type, and whether the exemptions and exclusions allow you to continue to run your business without a significant impact.

Tell us what you think:

- Sign up for an online webinar at sydneywatertalk.com.au
- Complete our 5-minute survey at sydneywatertalk.com.au
- Email us at restrictions@sydneywater.com.au
- Call 0436 005 764

The final proposal of exemptions and exclusions will be shaped using your feedback. We will submit this proposal to the NSW Government.

If we don't get enough rain and our levels continue to drop, we will need to make some hard decisions and implement tighter restrictions over time.

We understand that water restrictions may make it challenging for you to operate, but we need to ensure there's drinking water coming out of the taps to supply Greater Sydney.

Proposed water restrictions

Level 1 restrictions will be introduced when dam levels drop to 50%.

Level 2 restrictions will be introduced when dam levels drop to 35%.

Total dam storage and restriction level	Level 1 Enforced with fines 50%	Level 2 Enforced with fines 35%
Hosing hard surfaces (paths and driveways)	Not permitted (except spot cleaning for safety, health or emergency reasons with a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle)	Not permitted (except spot cleaning for safety, health or emergency reasons with a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle)
Sprinklers and watering systems (covers all types of systems)	Not permitted at any time	Not permitted at any time
Unattended hoses	Unattended hoses – Not permitted , except when filling a pool	Unattended hoses – Not permitted , except when filling a pool
Hand held hosing of lawns and gardens	Permitted before 10am and after 4pm with a trigger nozzle or device that can be turned off instantly	Not permitted outdoor watering with watering cans and buckets only
Washing vehicles, boats and buildings	Permitted if using a bucket, high pressure cleaning equipment or a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle	Washing buildings – Not permitted Vehicle/boat cleaning – Permitted by commercial cleaners only
Filling new or renovated pools and spas (>10,000L)	Permitted (Sydney Water permit and cover required)	Permitted (Sydney Water permit and cover required)

*This is a proposal only and subject to review by the NSW Government

Proposed exclusions

Exclusions apply to everyone, including residential and non-residential customers.

Water types



Recycled water
(from non-potable pipework)



Bore water and water
taken from rivers



Greywater



Rainwater (as long as the tank/
dam isn't topped up from, or
switched to, the drinking water
supply)

Water uses



Water parks



Topping up swimming pools
to replace water lost through
normal use, including
evaporation



Water used for firefighting,
testing and related activities



Water used for dust
suppression & concrete mixing



Flushing boat engines and using
hoses with trigger nozzles/high
pressure cleaning equipment to
clean bilges and essential safety
components on boat trailers
such as brakes and wheels



Auto (drive through) car washes