

WATER CONSERVATION GENERAL POLICY

Intent

To establish a policy for the adoption of water conservation principles and actions for Douglas Shire Council operational activities, properties and public facilities.

Scope

This policy applies to all Douglas Shire Council activities.

Provisions

1. All new building and infrastructure projects should be designed to include water efficient fixtures, appliances and irrigation systems.
2. For all new building and infrastructure projects, Douglas Shire Council will consider the opportunity for alternative water supply e.g. rainwater tanks, effluent reuse, stormwater harvesting.
3. When existing fixtures and appliances are to be replaced or upgraded, water efficient fixtures and appliances, fit for the purpose, will be installed.
4. That Douglas Shire Council will audit all Douglas Shire Council usage facilities to
 1. determine current water consumption rates
 2. identify appropriate water conservation management practices and procedures for implementation.
5. Provide training on relevant water conservation practices for employees and, where appropriate, contractors and lessees of council properties and facilities.
6. Ensure that employees, suppliers, lessees, contractors, professional peers and community groups are aware of this policy, and where appropriate, their responsibilities in regard to this policy.
7. Where applicable the following minimum standards, under the Australian Government “Water Efficiency Labelling and Standard Scheme” (WELS) apply to the following appliances to be installed in Council facilities –

Appliance	Minimum WELS Star Rating
Clothes Washing Machines	4
Dishwashers	4
Flow Controllers	5
Toilet (lavatory) equipment	4
Showers	3
Tap Equipment	5
Urinal equipment	3

Note: for commercial purposes there may be other fixtures and appliances not covered by the WELS Scheme. In this case the most water efficient options that are fit for purpose should be selected. Non-water using fixtures and appliances may not be covered by the WELS scheme, such as waterless urinals, and may be selected in preference to those products listed under the WELS Scheme.

For details on the WELS Scheme refer to <http://www.waterrating.gov.au/>

8. Douglas Shire Council will respond to incidents such as leakage, pipe breakages, irrigation system malfunction and inappropriate use and any other water wastage incidents as soon as possible in order to minimise water loss.
9. This policy will be reviewed from time to time by Council to reflect changes in community expectations, and changes in state and federal government legislative, policy and guidelines.
10. Douglas Shire Council is to follow the current water restrictions that are set in Schedule 1 – Water Restrictions level 1 – 4. Douglas Shire Council would be exempt from applying for a water exemption for reasons:
 - a) Health and safety
 - b) Undertaking of essential works
 - c) Minor or infrequent uses of water outside the restrictions (e.g. sporting or community events)
 - d) Aesthetic reasons
 - e) Any other criteria deemed appropriate under the water supply conditions at the time.

Divisions Responsible for Administration

- Water and Wastewater
- Infrastructure
- Environment and Planning
- People & Governance
- Community Development

This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.

Manager Responsible for Review: Manager Water and Wastewater

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 04/10/2017

CURRENT ADOPTION: 16/04/2019

DUE FOR REVISION: 16/04/2023