

ISSUED 27 MARCH 2024

# Waterwise. Weather wise.

## Building Resilience Together.

Where the rainforest meets the reef, the Douglas Shire is celebrated for its World Heritage wonders and immersive natural experiences. Operating in such an environment comes with great responsibility. Now, more than ever, as we continue to face challenges from the impacts of TC Jasper, it's important to conserve water use and address leaks within our businesses and to encourage guests to be waterwise.

### Taking action begins with small steps

We can seek to influence the way guests use water on site. This starts with your amenities, ensuring all guests have access to facilities that encourage waterwise behaviour. Together, we can make important changes to our water consumption habits.

Effective ways to make an impact on water reduction is to undertake an audit of water use, undertake leak detection, install pressure reduction valves, and explore options for irrigation using rain water or bore water

### If you have submetering

If you already have a submeter/s installed, a more detailed water audit can be undertaken. With a sub meter, parts of the network can be isolated to do what is called a stop test. A stop test can check if there is network loss by figuring out where a leak is likely to be located. If you would like more information about a sub-metering or part-sub-metering program and how Council may assist, please contact Douglas Shire Council.



### How to find out more about your water usage and behaviour

The best place to start is the MiWater Portal where you can monitor your usage in close to real time. [Discover more here.](#)

### Undertaking a water audit

To undertake an audit of your current use compile a list of your water-using facilities (e.g. number of rooms, toilets, showers, areas under irrigation, dishwashers etc).

A standard water usage can be assigned to these devices based on industry averages. Once this is calculated, you then compare it to your actual consumption through completing daily meter reads.

If there is a pronounced difference between what you consider to be a reasonable use vs. actual use then you have a water reduction opportunity. For more information, about average water use: [click here.](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [DOUGLAS.QLD.GOV.AU](https://www.douglas.qld.gov.au)

*Douglas Shire Council acknowledges the traditional Country of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Peoples and the Yirrganydji Peoples of the coastal areas and rainforest of the Douglas Shire, and pays respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging.*

# QUICK CHECKLIST OF ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE AS A RESORT

- ✓ Completing a water audit – see above
- ✓ Sharing water use information and ways to minimise their impact with incoming guests
- ✓ Swapping to lower-pressure showerheads
- ✓ Ensuring all toilets across the premises are dual cistern
- ✓ Introducing water displacement devices in cisterns to reduce the flush volume

## QUICK WATER WINS

### Showers

- ✓ Have you installed low controls on showers?
- ✓ Have you replaced shower heads with water efficient models?
- ✓ Is there an option to replace spa baths with models with jets suited to a low water line?

### Laundry Service

- ✓ Are you actively educating guests to hang up towels instead of receiving fresh towels daily?
- ✓ Are their minimum capacity requirements to run the washing machines?
- ✓ Have you audited your machines to ensure a four-star energy rating?

### Pools and Spas

- ✓ Have you reduced the pool water level to minimise loss from splashing?
- ✓ Have you installed a diversion for backwash to water lawns and shrubs, or collection for reuse?
- ✓ Are you actively using a pool cover to avoid evaporation?

### Hospitality

- ✓ Are you cleaning with brooms and mops, rather than hosing down?
- ✓ Have you installed flow-controlled taps to the hospitality areas, or pedal or sensor controlled taps?
- ✓ Are there capacity rules around using the dishwasher?

### Basins

- ✓ Have you installed flow valves to adjust the flow of water?
- ✓ Have you installed flow-controlled regulators?
- ✓ Do you have timed tap services to control the flow of water (e.g. push button taps)?
- ✓ Do you have a process in place to periodically check taps for leaks?

### Toilets

- ✓ Have you modified the flush volume in the cistern?
- ✓ Have you replaced inefficient systems with dual flush cisterns?
- ✓ Are you conducting regular maintenance on toilets to reduce leaks?

### Cooling Towers

- ✓ Have you checked if your air conditioning system requires a cooling system?
- ✓ If it does, have you reviewed how your provider manages their water consumption?
- ✓ If possible, move to recycled/stored water solutions for your cooling tower?

### Hotel Grounds

- ✓ Are you watering your landscaping through ground/bore or recycled or stored (tank) supply?
- ✓ Have you advertised that this is the source of your water and lush landscaping?
- ✓ Have you added compost / mulch to maximise moisture retention?
- ✓ Have you installed moisture sensors to automatically turn off your watering supply when there's sufficient moisture in the soil?
- ✓ Do you have a process for grey water collection and re-use?

## Cost benefit

In assessing the above actions, it's important to remember the ongoing reward from implementing waterwise practices. While some will have an immediate impact, others will take time. Beyond cost savings, there's also an intrinsic environmental responsibility and benefit to taking environmental action, which is so important for our unique ecosystem here in the Douglas Shire.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [DOUGLAS.QLD.GOV.AU](http://DOUGLAS.QLD.GOV.AU)

*Douglas Shire Council acknowledges the traditional Country of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Peoples and the Yirrganydji Peoples of the coastal areas and rainforest of the Douglas Shire, and pays respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging.*