



**LOWER MURRAY
WATER**

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMUNITY ENCOURAGED TO JOIN IN WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS WITH POTENTIAL WATER RESTRICTIONS FROM NOVEMBER 2019

Lower Murray Water has informed its urban customers that unless significant rainfall is received in the Murray River catchment over the next few weeks, Stage 1 water use restrictions will likely be necessary to secure the region's water supply.

Lower Murray Water has sufficient water from carryover and allocation for its 2019/20 needs, however, water supplies for 2020/21 are at risk if the current very dry conditions continue.

Lower Murray Water Managing Director, Anthony Couroupis, said "that by implementing low impact water use restrictions now we can save water that we may need for 2020/21. We are considering starting urban water use restrictions in November. Using a little less water for a longer period will have less impact on our customers and our communities".

"The Murray River is currently experiencing very dry conditions with well below-average rainfall and low inflows to storages. Any move to Stage 1 water restrictions will only be made where it is absolutely necessary.

Lower Murray Water recognises urban water use restrictions can only be successful in reducing water use where we act together as a community for our longer-term benefit. There is still a possibility of significant rainfall in October, but in the meantime, it is sensible to begin preparing for water use restrictions", Mr Couroupis concluded.

Stage 1 urban water use restrictions, if implemented, would apply to private, public, commercial and industrial gardens, including sporting grounds supplied by Lower Murray Water's urban water systems.

Under Stage 1 water restrictions, watering of gardens and lawn areas would be determined by odds and evens property numbering and the corresponding day of the month, between 6am and 10am and between 6pm and 10pm. Hand-held watering with the use of water saving trigger nozzles is allowed at any time under Stage 1 water restrictions.

Other Stage 1 water restrictions include:

- Vehicle washing can only be done using a bucket or high-pressure device or commercial car wash. A hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle can only be used for pre-rinsing and rinsing.
- Fountains that do not recirculate water can only be topped up using a bucket, watering can, or hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle. Water fountains that recirculate water can be operated.
- New large pools and spas (greater than 2,000 litres) can only be filled after Lower Murray Water's approval of a customer's Water Conservation Plan. Topping up an existing pool can only be done by a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, a bucket or watering can or an automatic top up device.

Lower Murray Water rural irrigation and domestic and stock customers source water directly from the water market and manage their own usage according to their available allocation. Lower Murray Water encourages its rural customers who may be impacted by the high allocation prices to seek assistance through our Hardship Policy, which can be accessed on our website.

For more information on water conservation and the watering times, visit www.lmw.vic.gov.au or follow us on social media.

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