

# **ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL**

# **WATER SERVICE PROVIDER NO. SP49**

# **DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN**



# CERTIFICATION OF DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN

| Water \$ | Service Provide   | r's Name:   | Etheridge Shire   | Council  |
|----------|-------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Water \$ | Service Provide   | r's Registered Number:  | SP49              |  |
| The atta | ached document    | has been prepared as the Droug                                    | ght Management    | Plan for Etheridge Shire Council                                   |
| -        | s of Etheridge SI |   |                   | nfrastructure and the registered theridge Shire Council resolution |
| In deter | •                 | opriateness of the Drought Man                                    | agement Plan, I   | have taken the following matters                                   |
| 1.       | _                 |   |                   | I requirements of Chapter 3, Part of a Drought Management Plan;    |
| 2.       |                   | sed financial arrangements put in ate to implement the Drought Ma |                   | theridge Shire Council should be as presented; and                 |
| 3.       |                   | gies, processes, procedures and cts on our customers.             | d actions in this | plan will minimise the economic                                    |
| Certifie | ed by:            | Les Edmistone Chief Executive Officer Etheridge Shire Council     |                   | (Date)   |



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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Over recent years it has become clear that our current water usage across Queensland is not sustainable. Our water resources are under increasing pressure as a result of climate change, population growth and increasing customer demand. Etheridge Shire Council together with the State Government is taking steps to ensure we have sustainable water supply systems for future generations.

In 2005, the Water Act 2000 was amended to include a requirement for all Water Service Providers in Queensland to prepare, and submit for registration, a Drought Management Plan (DMP) for each service area/authority area in which the service provider supplies water.

This document demonstrates Etheridge Shire Council's commitment to sustainable water management as well as constituting its Drought Management Plan for the purposes of complying with Chapter 3 of the Water Act 2000. It includes aspects of pre-drought water conservation planning which involves permanent water saving initiatives that will allow our communities to achieve permanent water efficiency savings and thereby achieve a 20% reduction in water consumption by the year 2020.

The key component of the strategy is the drought management provisions. The drought management provisions detail the restrictions and actions to be implemented during various stages of drought events which are withdrawn or incrementally lifted as the drought recedes.



#### 2. POLICY STATEMENT

The Etheridge Shire Council regards the long-term sustainability of our water resources as an issue of primary importance, requiring continual monitoring.

Etheridge Shire Council has set the following targets for per capita consumption and is committed to achieving these targets to ensure future generations have a cost effective, sustainable water supply system.

#### 3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this strategy is to:

- a. To encourage Etheridge Shire Council customers and the wider community to conserve water and use it wisely;
- To outline the Etheridge Shire Council's approved plan for regulating the use of water from both the Georgetown Water Supply System and Forsayth Water Supply System during periods of water shortage;
- c. To identify other water sources and actions that Etheridge Shire Council will consider during periods of extreme drought to maintain essential water services sufficient to ensure minimum health requirements; and
- d. To comply with Chapter 3 of the Water Act 2000.



#### 4. SERVICES & SYSTEMS OVERVIEW

#### 4.1. Registered Water Service

Etheridge Shire Council is the registered Water Service Provider to an estimated population of 580 people in the Shire of Etheridge.

There are a number of townships within Etheridge Shire. Table 4.1 provides an overview of provision of water supply services to these settlements and the types of services provided by Etheridge Shire Council to which this Drought Management Plan applies.

| Township           | Estimated<br>Approximate<br>Population | Reticulated<br>Water<br>Supply | Bulk<br>Water | Irrigation | Stock &<br>Domestic | Other -<br>State |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Einasleigh         | 50                                     | ×                              | ×             | ×          | ×                   | ×                |
| Forsayth           | 138                                    | ✓                              | ×             | ×          | ×                   | ×                |
| Georgetown         | 442                                    | ✓                              | ×             | ×          | ×                   | ×                |
| Mt Surprise        | 75                                     | ×                              | ×             | ×          | ×                   | ×                |
| Wider<br>Community | 302                                    | *                              | ×             | ×          | *                   | *                |

Table 4-1 Types of Services

#### 4.2. Nature and Extent of Water Services

Etheridge Shire Council owns, operates and manages two existing water supply schemes designated after the township they serve. The nature and extent of services provided by Etheridge Shire Council are summarised in Tables 4.2 and 4.3. Ten (10) year projections of demands/flows are summarised in Table 4.4

#### 4.2.1. Georgetown Water Supply Scheme

Georgetown's water supply is drawn from the aquifer in the alluvial bed sands of the Etheridge River. Surface water filters through the alluvial sands of the river bed to the aquifer where it is drawn from a series of wells. Water drawn form the wells is chlorinated and fed to a 600kL service reservoir which in turn gravity feeds the township. The township has approximately 221 service connections.



The reticulation system consists of equal volumes of AC and PVC 150, 100 and 80 mm main with predominantly 20mm PVC service connections. There are some sections of 100mm diameter uPVC pipes.

#### 4.2.2. Forsayth Water Supply Scheme

Forsayth's water is sourced from the Big Reef Dam located 6 kilometres from the township. The water supply is treated by a DAF water treatment plant commissioned in 2006. Treated water is fed to a 90 kL service reservoir which in turn gravity feeds the township. The township has 69 service connections.

The reticulation system consists main of PVC pipe with limited HDPE with 20 mm PVC service connections.

| Scheme Name                     | Communities Served | No. of Connections |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| Georgetown Water Supply Scheme  | Georgetown         | 221                |  |
| Forsayth Water Supply<br>Scheme | Forsayth           | 69                 |  |

Table 4-2 Overview of Schemes

| Water Supply                      | Nature of Service (tick as appropriate)                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Scheme Name                       | Potable Non-Potable Pressurised Constant Dua<br>On Demand Flow Reticular |  |  |  |  |  |
| Georgetown Water Supply<br>Scheme | ✓  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Forsayth Water Supply Scheme      | ✓  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 4-3 Nature of Services

| Water Supply Services          |                         |         |          |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| Scheme Name                    | Water Demand ML / annum |         |          |  |  |  |  |
| Scheme Name                    | Current                 | 5 years | 10 years |  |  |  |  |
| Georgetown Water Supply Scheme | 149.00                  | 151.72  | 152.59   |  |  |  |  |
| Forsayth Water Supply Scheme   | 34.51                   | 35.14   | 35.34    |  |  |  |  |

Table 4-4 Projected Demand



#### 4.3. Infrastructure Details

Tables 4.5 and 4.6 outline the infrastructure used for water supply to each scheme.

| Scheme Name        |          | Georgetown Water Supply Scheme   |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| Source Facility    |          | Etheridge River                  |
| Treatment Plant    | Name     | Georgetown Water Treatment Plant |
|                    | Capacity |                                  |
| Reservoir          | Name     | Georgetown Water Reservoir       |
|                    | Capacity | 600 kL                           |
| Pump Stations      |          | 3                                |
| Length of Pipeline | es       | 9,484 metres                     |
| Length of channe   | ls       | 0                                |

Table 4-5 Georgetown Water Supply Infrastructure

| Scheme Name        |          | Forsayth Water Supply Scheme   |
|--------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Source Facility    |          | Big Reef Dam                   |
| Treatment Plant    | Name     | Forsayth Water Treatment Plant |
|                    | Capacity |                                |
| Reservoir          | Name     | Forsayth Water reservoir       |
|                    | Capacity | 90 kL                          |
| Pump Stations      |          | 0                              |
| Length of Pipeline | es       | 7,997 metres                   |
| Length of channe   | ls       | 0                              |

Table 4-6 Forsayth Water Supply Infrastructure

Figures 4-1 and 4-2 show schematic layouts of the Georgetown water supply scheme and of the Forsayth water supply scheme.



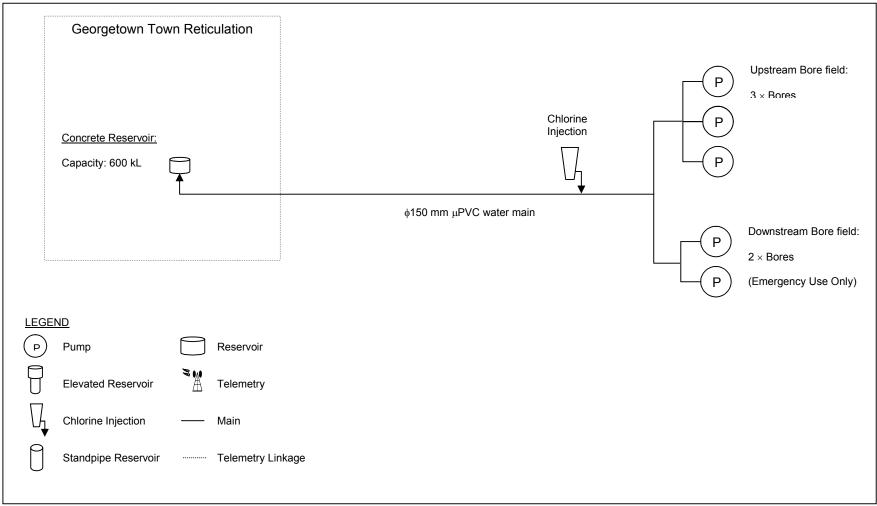


Figure 4-1 Schematic Layout – Georgetown Water Supply Scheme



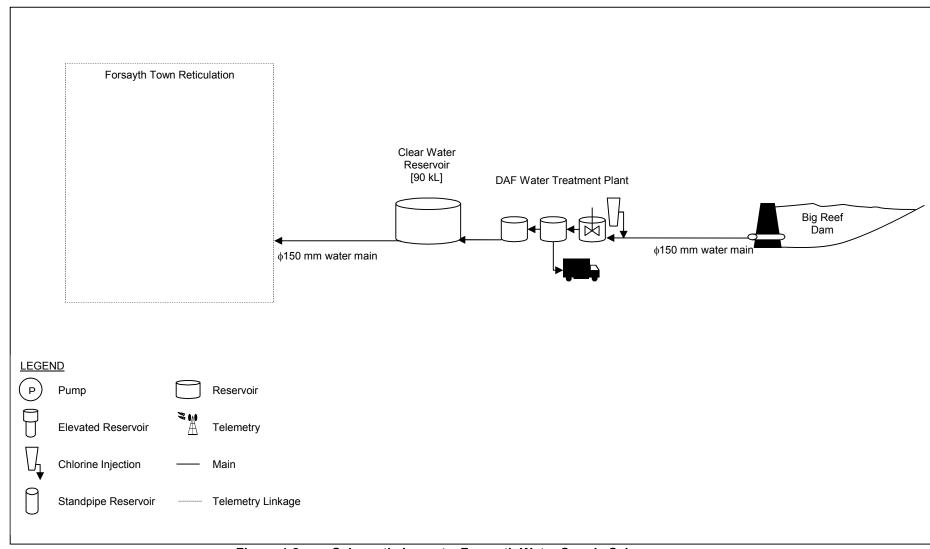


Figure 4-2 Schematic Layout – Forsayth Water Supply Scheme



#### 4.4. Water Sources Assessment

Table 4.6 details the status of sources assessment work undertaken by Etheridge Shire Council.

| Source                | Rainfall<br>Dependent<br>Y / N | Date of Last<br>Yield Review<br>*1 | Date of Next<br>Planned Yield<br>Review<br>*2 | Have Any<br>Environmental Flow<br>Requirements Been<br>Considered?<br>Y / N | Have Preliminary Cost Estimates Been Prepared for Future or Emergency Sources?  *3 | Have the Performance of<br>the Current Sources Been<br>Modelled in the Past 5<br>Years? |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Current Sources:      |                                |                                    |   |   |  |   |
| 1. Etheridge River    | Y                              |                                    |   |   |  |   |
| 2. Big Reef Dam       | Y                              |                                    |   |   |  |   |
| Future Sources:       |                                |                                    |   |   |  |   |
| 1.                    |                                |                                    |   |   |  |   |
| Emergency Sources: 1. |                                |                                    |   |   |  |   |

Table 4-7 Source Assessments



#### 4.4.1. Past performance Review

Both of the sources for the water supplies to the townships of Georgetown and Forsayth, the Etheridge River and Big Reef Dam respectively, are rainfall dependent. Both sources are traditionally replenished annually during the wet summer months.

Figures 4.3 and 4.4 provide a graphical review of the levels of water in each source.

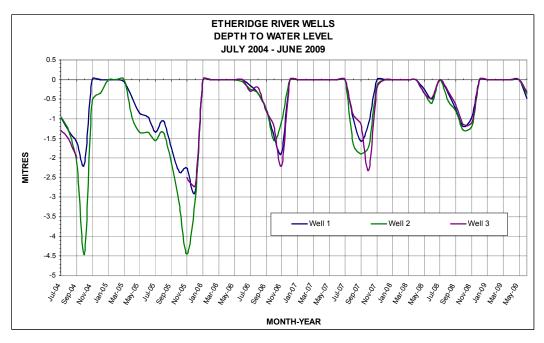


Figure 4-3 Etheridge River Wells – Depth to Water

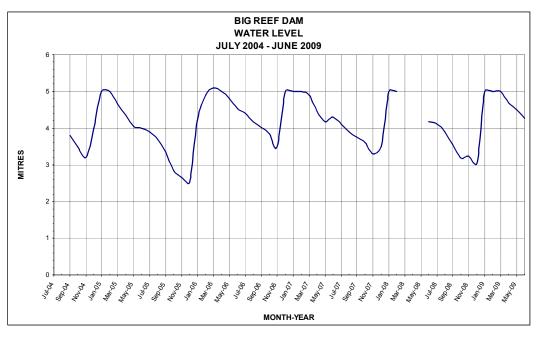


Figure 4-4 Big Reef Dam – Water Level



#### 4.5. Water Consumption

#### 4.5.1. Historical Water Consumption

The standard of record keeping and collection of data relating to water consumption in both Georgetown and Forsayth has varied for many years and, in some instances, records were not kept for lengthy periods of time. However a broad analysis of the data available shows a large variation in monthly consumption between the wet summer months and the drier winter months.

Figures 4.5 and 4.6 provide a graphic representation of the available data.

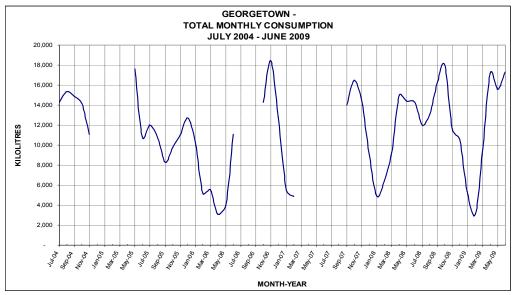


Figure 4-5 Georgetown: Total Monthly Consumption

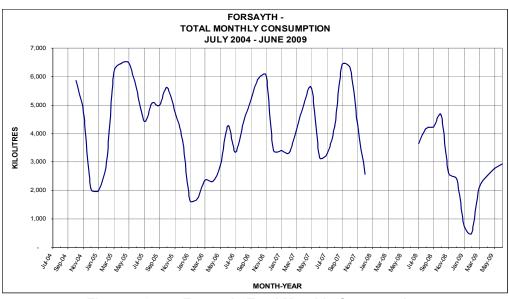


Figure 4-6 Forsayth: Total Monthly Consumption



#### 4.5.2. Projected Water Consumption

Population projections for the townships within the Etheridge Shire region provide for an annual increase of 2.5%. To achieve a 20% reduction in water consumption by the year 2020 annual consumption should only increase by 0.5% from the previous year.

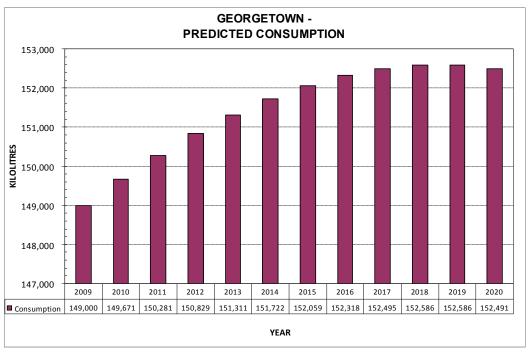


Figure 4-7 Predicted Annual Consumption - Georgetown

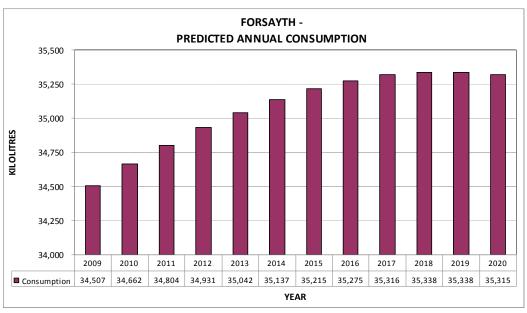


Figure 4-8 Predicted Annual Consumption - Forsayth



#### 5. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### 5.1. General

This Drought Management Plan addresses both Etheridge Shire Council's ongoing water conservation strategy and its drought response plan. It is important that the community understands the difference between the two. Restrictions which are part of the water conservation strategy are ongoing and intended to ensure that we adopt sustainable water use practices as part of our normal way of life. Restrictions which are introduced in response to a drought or other temporary water shortage event will only be implemented to various levels during the drought or event and will be lifted when conditions return to normal.

#### 5.2. Restrictions Trigger Levels

The most effective way to reduce water consumption is to introduce water restrictions. Water restrictions theoretically allow the water source to last longer under a variety of usage and drought scenarios taking into account future population growth. Under the Water Act 2000, Sections 388 and 389, Etheridge Shire Council has the legal power to determine, implement and enforce water restrictions.

Table 5.1 details consumption targets for each level of restrictions for schemes under Etheridge Shire Council's control.

| Restriction Level | Trigger Point –                   |                                      |  |  |  |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
|                   | Georgetown                        | Forsayth                             |  |  |  |
| 0                 | Base Level                        | Base Level                           |  |  |  |
| 1                 | Well 1 Level dropped >1 m < = 2 m | Big Reef Dam Level < 4 m >= 3.5 m    |  |  |  |
| 2                 | Well 1 Level dropped > 2 m <= 3 m | Big Reef Dam Level < 3.5 m > = 3.0 m |  |  |  |
| 3                 | Well 1 Level dropped > 3 m <= 4 m | Big Reef Dam Level < 3.0 m > = 2.5 m |  |  |  |
| 4                 | Well Level dropped > 4 m          | Big Reef Dam Level < 2.5 m           |  |  |  |

Table 5-1 Trigger Levels

#### 5.3. Restrictions Levels

Table 5.2 sets out details of restrictions on the use of water from Georgetown Water Supply Scheme and Forsayth Water Supply Scheme.



Table 5-2 Restrictions Levels for Water Supply Systems

| PURPOSE                       | RESTRICTION ON USE OF WATER   |   |   |  |   |  |  |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|
|                               | Level 0   | Level 1   | Level 2   | Level 3  | Level 4   |  |  |
| 1. Private gardens - watering | 1. No sprinklers on Mondays.  2. Sprinklers allowed Tuesday to Sunday between the hours of 5.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.  3. Attended hand held hoses permitted at any time except Mondays.  (Watering permitted 36 hrs per week) | 1. Zone A houses, sprinklers allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between 5.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. only.  2. Zone B houses, sprinklers allowed Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays between 5.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. only  3. Micro spray and drip systems fitted with timers can be used between 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m. on alternate days. Zone A houses on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday / Zone B houses on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday  4. Hand held hoses, watering cans or buckets can be used at any time. | <ol> <li>Zone A houses, 1 sprinkler allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. only.</li> <li>Zone B houses, 1 sprinkler allowed Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays between and 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. only</li> <li>Micro spray and drip systems fitted with timers can be used between 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m. on alternate days. Zone A houses on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday / Zone B houses on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday</li> <li>Hand held hoses, watering cans or buckets can be used at any time.</li> </ol> | Garden Beds/Shrubbery Areas  1. Micro spray and drip systems fitted with timers can be used between 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m. on alternate days. Zone A houses on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday / Zone B houses on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday  2. Sprinklers must not be used at any time.  3. Hand held hoses must not be used except between the hours of 6.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. on alternate days.  4. Watering cans or buckets filled directly from taps can be used at any time.  Lawn Areas Lawn areas must not be watered at any time. | Garden Beds/Shrubbery Areas  1. Sprinklers, micro spray and drip systems must not be used at any time.  2. Hoses must not be used at any time.  3. Watering cans or buckets filled directly from taps can be used between the hours of 7.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.  Lawn Areas  Lawn areas must not be watered at any time. |  |  |



| PURPOSE   |   |   | RESTRICTION ON USE OF WA   | TER   |  |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
|   | Level 0   | Level 1   | Level 2  | Level 3   | Level 4  |
| 2. Public gardens - watering  | No sprinklers or hand held hoses on Mondays.     Sprinklers allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, between the hours of 7pm and 7am only.     Attended hand held hoses permitted at any time except Mondays. | 1. Micro spray and drip systems fitted with timers can be used between 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.  2. Sprinklers can be used between 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.  3. Hand held hoses, watering cans or buckets can be used at any time. | 1. Micro spray and drip systems fitted with timers can be used between 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.  2. Sprinklers must not be used without the written permission of the Authority.  3. Lawn areas must not be watered without the written permission of the Authority.  4. Hand held hoses, watering cans or buckets can be used at any time on other garden areas only. | 1. Micro spray and drip systems fitted with timers can be used between 8.00 p.m. to 12.00 a.m.  2. Sprinklers must not be used without the written permission of the Authority.  3. Lawn areas must not be watered without the written permission of the Authority.  4. Hand held hoses, watering cans or buckets can be used at any time on other garden areas only. | Sprinklers, micro spray and drip systems must not be used at any time.  Lawn areas must not be watered at any time.  Hoses must not be used at any time.   |
| Private gardens and public gardens - filling or topping up of ponds | No restrictions.  | Existing ponds can only be topped up to their normal level and only by means of hand held hoses or by means of watering cans or buckets filled directly from taps.  | Newly constructed ponds must not be filled for the first time without the written permission of the Authority.     Existing ponds can only be topped up to their normal level and only by means of hand held hoses or by means of watering cans or buckets filled directly from taps.  | Newly constructed ponds must not be filled.     Existing ponds can only be topped up to their normal level and only by means of watering cans or buckets filled directly from taps.   | Existing ponds sustaining fish or bird life can only be topped up to their normal level and only by means of watering cans or buckets filled directly from taps.      Other ponds must not be topped up or filled. |



|    | PURPOSE  | RESTRICTION ON USE OF WATER   |   |   |  |   |
|----|--|---|---|---|--|---|
|    |  | Level 0   | Level 1   | Level 2   | Level 3  | Level 4   |
| 4. | Fountains  | No restrictions.  | Water lost from fountains<br>must not be replaced<br>except by means of hand<br>held hoses or by means of<br>watering cans or buckets<br>filled directly from taps.   | Fountains must not operate unless they recycle water.      Water lost from fountains must not be replaced.  | Fountains must not operate without the permission of the Authority.  | Fountains must not operate without the permission of the Authority.   |
| 5. | Paved areas - cleaning                                 | No restrictions   | Water must not be used to clean paved areas unless cleaning is required as a result of an accident, fire, health hazard or other emergency.   | Water must not be used to clean paved areas unless cleaning is required as a result of an accident, fire, health hazard or other emergency.   | Water must not be used to clean paved areas unless cleaning is required as a result of an accident, fire, health hazard or other emergency.  | Water must not be used to clean paved areas unless cleaning is required as a result of an accident, fire, health hazard or other emergency.   |
| 6. | Private swimming pools or spas – filling or topping up | Filling new pools – no restrictions.  Existing pools may be topped up as per garden watering times. | Existing swimming pools and spas must not be topped up except by means of hand held hoses, or by means of watering cans or buckets filled directly from taps.   | Newly constructed swimming pools and spas must not be filled for the first time without the written permission of the Authority.      Existing swimming pools and spas must not be topped up except by means of hand held hoses, or by means of watering cans or buckets filled directly from taps. | Newly constructed swimming pools and spas must not be filled for the first time without the written permission of the Authority.      Existing swimming pools and spas must not be topped up except by means of hand held hoses, or by means of watering cans or buckets filled directly from taps | Newly constructed swimming pools and spas must not be filled.     Existing swimming pools and spas must not be topped up or filled.   |
| 7. | Farm dams and tanks –<br>topping up                    | No restriction.   | Farm dams and tanks must not be topped up except -  (a) Dams or tanks providing water for firefighting, public health or stock watering purposes but only to the extent necessary to reasonably provide for those purposes; or  (b) In the case of other dams | Farm dams and tanks must not be topped up except -  (a) Dams or tanks providing water for firefighting, public health or stock watering purposes but only to the extent necessary to reasonably provide for those purposes; or  (b) In the case of other dams                                       | Farm dams and tanks must not be topped up except -  (a) Dams or tanks providing water for firefighting, public health or stock watering purposes but only to the extent necessary to reasonably provide for those purposes; or  (b) In the case of other dams                                      | Farm dams and tanks must not be topped up except -  (a) Dams or tanks providing water for firefighting, public health or stock watering purposes but only to the extent necessary to reasonably provide for those purposes; or  (b) In the case of other dams |



| PURPOSE  | RESTRICTION ON USE OF WATER  |  |   |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|
|  | Level 0  | Level 1  | Level 2   | Level 3  | Level 4   |
|  |  | or tanks, with the written<br>permission of the<br>Authority.  | or tanks, with the written<br>permission of the<br>Authority.   | or tanks, with the written permission of the Authority.  | or tanks, with the written permission of the Authority.   |
| 8. Sports grounds - watering                                   | Sprinklers allowed Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, between the hours of 7pm and 7am only. | Sprinklers, micro spray or drip systems, can be used between 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.  Hand held hoses, watering cans or buckets can be used at any time. | 1. Non-active playing surfaces must not be watered without the written permission of the Authority.  2. Active playing surfaces can only be watered using:-  (a) Sprinklers, micro sprays or drip systems between the hours of 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m., or  (b) With hand held hoses immediately before or at the time of use; or  (c) With watering cans or buckets filled directly from taps. | 1. Non-active playing surfaces must not be watered without the written permission of the Authority.  2. Active playing surfaces must not be watered except  -  (a) With hand held hoses on surfaces to be used for a scheduled Regional or State professional sporting competition; or  (b) With watering cans or buckets filled directly from taps. | Non-active playing surfaces must not be watered.  Active playing surfaces must not be watered except that, with the permission of the Authority, surfaces to be used for a scheduled Regional or State professional sporting competition can be watered -  (a) With hand held hoses; or  (b) With watering cans or buckets filled directly from taps. |
| Commercial market garden or plant nursery – watering of plants | No restrictions.   | No restrictions.   | No restrictions.  | Sprinklers must not be used except between the hours of 11.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m.      Hand held hoses, watering cans or buckets can be used at any time.  | Sprinklers must not be used without the written permission of the Authority.      Hand held hoses, watering cans or buckets can be used at any time   |
| 10. Window cleaning  | No restrictions.   | Water must not be used to clean windows except by means of -  (a) Trigger hoses; or  | Water must not be used to clean windows except by means of -  (a) A trigger hose, with the written permission of the  | Water must not be used to clean windows except by means of a bucket or watering can filled directly from a tap.  | Water must not be used to clean windows.  Exemption from Restrictions  The restrictions on the use of   |



|     | PURPOSE  | RESTRICTION ON USE OF WATER   |   |   |  |  |
|-----|--|---|---|---|--|--|
|     |  | Level 0 Level 1   |   | Level 2   | Level 3  | Level 4  |
|     |  |   | (b) Buckets or watering can filled directly from a tap.   | Authority; or  (b) A bucket or watering can filled directly from a tap.                             |  | water for cleaning windows do not apply where cleaning is required as a result of an accident, fire, health hazard or other emergency. |
| 11. | Construction industry - use of water in  | No restrictions.  | Unless otherwise exempted by the Authority in writing, hoses must not be used except trigger hoses. | Unless otherwise exempted by the Authority in writing, hoses must not be used except trigger hoses. | Unless otherwise exempted by<br>the Authority in writing, hoses<br>must not be used except trigger<br>hoses. | Unless otherwise exempted by the Authority in writing, hoses must not be used except trigger hoses.                                    |
| 12. | Any purpose not included in any other items of this column other than for use inside domestic premises and for domestic and farm animals | Water must not be used without the written permission of the Authority. | Water must not be used without the written permission of the Authority.                             | Water must not be used without the written permission of the Authority.                             | Water must not be used without the written permission of the Authority.                                      | Water must not be used without the written permission of the Authority.  |



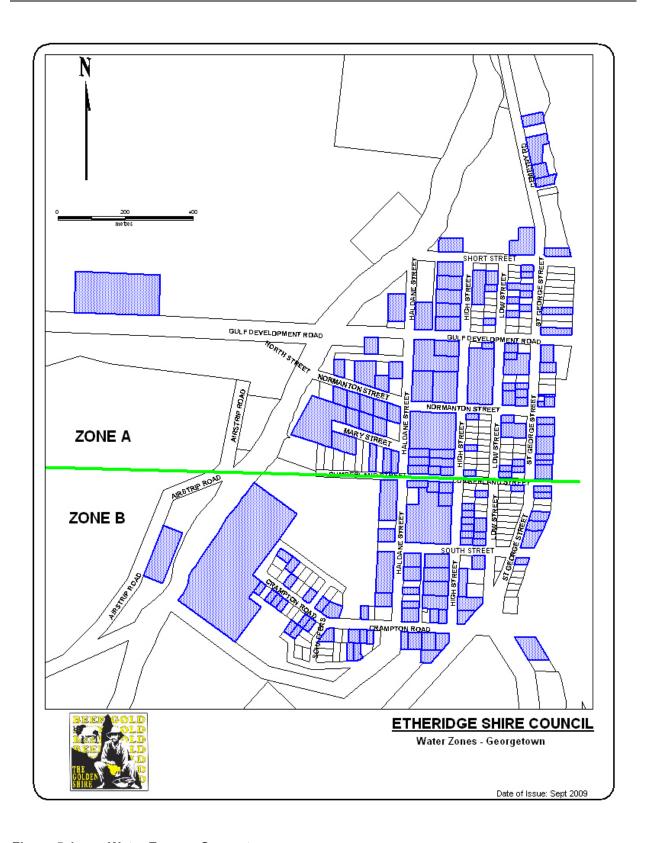


Figure 5-1 Water Zones - Georgetown





Figure 5-2 Water Zones - Forsayth



#### 6. IMPLEMENTATION

#### 6.1. Authorising Provisions

Etheridge Shire Council resolution number 209/G133 provides that:

"The authority to exercise such powers as are conferred on the Council by the Water Act 2000 shall be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to impose water restrictions."

Etheridge Shire Council policy number 44: Watering Hours Amendment, as adopted by resolution number 97/W91 and amended by resolution number 209/G133 authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve amended watering times subject to application and conditions.

This policy is detailed in Appendix A.

#### 6.2. Enforcement

Reported misuse and breaches of restriction shall be followed up immediately and the site visited. Where appropriate the offender shall be reminded of the restrictions and the need to conserve water.

Repeat offenders, or blatant disregard of the restriction, shall result in the issue of a written warning and/or the issue of a fine in accordance with the Water Act 2000.

#### 6.3. Exemptions

Exemptions to restrictions at each Level may be granted in writing by Etheridge Shire Council if it considers that reasonable grounds for such exemptions have been presented to it in writing on the application form in Appendix B to this plan.

Any exemptions granted under this authority may be granted unconditionally or on specific conditions and exemptions may be granted either totally or in part to the extent specified in Etheridge Shire Council's approval notification letter.

In most, if not all cases, exemptions granted shall be for a specified period of time not exceeding the term of the particular level of restrictions for which the exemption is granted.



When restrictions are granted, unless otherwise specifically stated in the letter of approval, all approved exemptions should automatically be withdrawn when the level of restriction change and customers seeking further exemptions must re-apply.

Customers granted exemptions shall be provided with a letter of approval specifying details of the exemption, the reason for the exemption and the duration of the exemption.

#### 6.4. Communications Plan

All changes to water restriction levels, other than those imposed due to, short term restrictions due to planned works or an emergency such as a breakdown or damaged mains etc, shall be detailed in local community newsletters prior to the commencement of the new restrictions.

Should it become necessary to increase restriction levels to Level 4 Council will produce public notices detailing storage levels and consumption rates on a fortnightly basis.

#### 6.5. Monitoring Plan

The keeping of logs recording consumption is a standard procedure of the operation of the water treatment plants of Georgetown and Forsayth. This practise will continue throughout any changes to restriction levels with the date of effect of restriction level change noted on the log sheet.

#### 6.6. External Assistance

| Organisation | Contact Person | Contact Details | Type of Service/Role |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|              |                |                 |                      |
|              |                |                 |                      |
|              |                |                 |                      |
|              |                |                 |                      |
|              |                |                 |                      |



#### **APPENDIX A.**

**Etheridge Shire Council Policy 44: Watering Hours Amendment** 



# ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL POLICY REGISTER

**POLICY NUMBER: 44.** 

**POLICY NAME:** Watering Hours Amendment

**POLICY HISTORY:** Resolution No. 97/W91

As amended: Resolution No. G209/G133

## **Watering Hours Amendment**

That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve amended watering times in Georgetown and Forsayth and conditions on application for the following purposes and subject to the conditions stated, namely:-

That amended times be available for the following only on application and approval by the Chief Executive Officer:-

- A. Houses with automated timed sprinkling systems installed;
- B. Commercial, Government (including Local Government, Schools etc) where staff to carry out the watering are only generally available during standard working hours; and
- C. Houses where the principal resident requires home care and has no other resident at the premises capable of watering within the prescribed hours.

#### And

That such amended hours incorporate the following restrictions:-

- A. That the total hours of watering are restricted to the total hours generally available to other general users of the water system
- B. Where an automated timed sprinkling system is installed the total hours available for use of sprinkling systems be reduced to 1 and ½ hours per day between the hours of 8.30pm and 10.00pm and that no other sprinkling hours shall be allowable other than for the use of hand held hoses in accordance with existing restrictions on their use.



## **APPENDIX B.**

**Exemption Application Form** 





# EXEMPTION REQUEST FORM

# All Correspondence to: The Chief Executive Officer Etheridge Shire Council P O Box 21 GEORGETOWN Q 4871

| Applicants Name:                          |           |  |                 |
|---|-----------|--|-----------------|
| Business Trading Name:<br>(If Applicable) |           |  |                 |
| Property Details: Property Description:   |           | Category of Water Restriction exemption is Requested: (Ple |                 |
| Street Name:                              |           | Residential or Commerc                                     | ial Garden      |
| Town:                                     | Postcode: | Public Gardens   |                 |
| Customer Details Name:                    |           | Sportsgrounds Ponds and lakes Fountains and Water Fe       |                 |
| Address:                                  |           | Private Pools and Spas                                     |                 |
| Town:                                     | Postcode: | Public Pools and Spas  Mobile Spas                         |                 |
| Contact Numbers:                          |           | Water Toys   |                 |
| Home:                                     |           | Dams and Tanks   |                 |
| Business:                                 |           | Mobile Water Tankers                                       |                 |
| Mobile:                                   |           | Commercial Market Gar                                      | den / Nursery   |
|   |           | Motor Vehicle Cleaning                                     |                 |
| After hours:                              |           | Commercial Car Washe                                       |                 |
| Facsimile:                                |           | Motor Dealer Vehicle Cl                                    | -               |
|   |           | Food Transport Vehicle                                     | Cleaning        |
| For use if applicant is a Compa           | <u>ny</u> | Boat Motor Cleaning  |                 |
| Registered Company name:                  |           | Hard Surface Cleaning                                      | -l              |
|   |           | Windows/Building Faca                                      | des/vvalls etc. |
| Company Trading Name:                     |           | Dust suppression   |                 |
| Pagistared Haad Office Address            | <u> </u>  | Construction Industry                                      |                 |
| Registered Head Office Addres             | 5.        | Animal Husbandry   |                 |
| ABN:                                      |           | Commercial Poultry Far                                     | ms              |



#### **Exemption Information**

The following additional information is required in order to determine whether an exemption may be granted:

#### Is the exemption sought (Please tick):

| Temporarily  |
|--|
| For the term of the current level of restrictions                                      |
| for seeking an exemption:<br>note that the principle reasons for seeking an<br>on are: |
| To avoid an inequitable impact upon the livelihood of the applicant.                   |
| An adverse effect on public health and safety  |

Please provide details and attach any specific documents to support your request.

#### **Conditions for Granting an Exemption**

If this exemption is granted, I agree to:

- Authorise Etheridge Shire Council to publicly disclose any relevant details of the exemption;
- Adhere to all the specific requirements contained within the exemption; and
- Provide appropriate access (as required) to enable Etheridge Shire Council to assess the initial application and monitor the ongoing adherence to any exemption conditions.
- Any other specified conditions as determined by Etheridge Shire Council.

| Signature of Applicant: |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Name (Print):           |  |
| Company Title:          |  |
| if applicable)          |  |
| Date:                   |  |

#### Exemptions

In certain circumstances, a water business may consider granting an exemption to water restrictions upon an application being made by a customer.

The overriding objective is to maximise water conservation during times of restriction, while at the same time, endeavouring to ensure that no customer segment or individual is disproportionately impacted by water restrictions.

Applications for an exemption must be made either on this form or in writing.

All approved exemptions may be logged on a register, where the public may seek clarification over the status of an exemption. The only information which will be made public is:

- The site address for which the exemption is granted;
- Details of the terms of exemption;
- Date approved and sunset date, if appropriate.

Approval of exemption terms is conditional to the applicant agreeing to:

- The exemption will be granted to a specific site address, or a particular person or organisation, or in special circumstances, both a particular person or organisation AND a particular site;
- Where applicable, signage will be provided by the water business to be prominently displayed;
- Co-operating with any random audit of site compliance for granted exemptions, to ensure alternative arrangements are being adhered to:
- Re-applying should the restriction level change.

|           |                    |                     | Office Use On                   | ly               |                   |                          |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| On receip |                    | be forwarded to     | the Engineering Services f      | or processing.   | Please ensure t   | he following actions are |
|           | Ensure the applica | ation is entered in | to the Restrictions Exemptio    | ns Data Base &   | registration numl | ber noted.               |
|           | Approval:          | Yes / No            | Signature:                      | L                | _Date:/           |                          |
|           | Special Condi      | tions Apply?        | ☐ Yes ☐ No                      | If Yes, sp       | pecify:           |                          |
| approval. | •                  | plication by mean   | s of a standard letter if appli | cation is succes | sful or advise by | standard letter of non-  |
|           | Document No        | <u> </u>            |                                 |                  |                   |                          |
|           | Ensure a file is   | s created in Restri | iction Exemption Data Base      | completed.       |                   |                          |