



Melinda Pavey

Minister for Water, Property and Housing

MEDIA RELEASE

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SECURING GREATER SYDNEY'S WATER SUPPLY

The NSW Government is taking action to protect Greater Sydney's water supply from drought conditions with the introduction of water restrictions.

Minister for Water, Property and Housing Melinda Pavey today announced Level 1 water restrictions will come into effect across Greater Sydney from 1 June.

"Greater Sydney is experiencing drought. We're seeing some of the lowest inflows into our dams since the 1940s, so it's vital we take early and decisive action," Mrs Pavey said.

"The Bureau of Meteorology's latest forecast is predicting below-average rainfall and higher temperatures for June to August, which are key drivers of stronger water demand. Water restrictions are an important drought response because they target the outdoor water use of all households.

"Regional NSW has been experiencing a record drought. Water restrictions in Sydney mean that households across NSW are doing their bit to conserve water."

Water restrictions are enforceable and penalties apply. Exemptions will be available for non-residential customers with outdoor water use as their core business.

For more information visit: <https://lovewater.sydney/>

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Level 1 water restrictions:

- Your hose must have a trigger nozzle, wand or other attachment with an instant on-off mechanism and you need to water your lawns and gardens before 10am or after 4pm
- The use of sprinklers and watering systems is not permitted, except for drip irrigation systems or automated watering systems with controllers that automatically adjust watering details based on changing soil moisture or weather conditions
- You can't leave a hose unattended, unless you are topping up a pool
- Hosing hard surfaces like paths and driveways is not permitted. However, you can always **spot clean** areas for health and safety reasons, or in an emergency,
- You can only wash vehicles, boats and buildings with a bucket, a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or high-pressure cleaning equipment,
- You will need a permit to fill a new or renovated pool greater than 10,000 litres. Having a pool cover that is endorsed by the Swimming Pool and Spa Association of Australia (SPASAA) is a condition of the permit).

Level 1 exclusions:

Exclusions are a list of water sources and uses where restrictions don't apply. There is no need to apply for these, and they are available to everyone. The following are excluded from the restrictions:

- Recycled water (from non-potable pipework)
- Greywater
- Bore water and water taken from rivers
- Rainwater (as long as the tank/dam isn't topped up from, or switched to, the drinking water supply)
- Water parks
- Water used for firefighting, testing and related activities
- Water used for dust suppression & concrete mixing
- Auto (drive through) car washes
- Topping up swimming pools to replace water lost through normal use, including evaporation
- 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
- Drip irrigation systems, or automated watering systems incorporating soil moisture sensors
- Watering of newly laid turf by hand held hose or sprinkler for a period of 7 days from date of installation