

# **SOL PLAATJE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

## **WATER RESTRICTIONS POLICY**



**APPROVED ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup> OF MAY**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: C60/05/17**



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## 1. PREAMBLE

Sol Plaatje Municipality (the municipality) functions as both Water Services Authority (WSA) and Water Services Provider (WSP). In terms of section 4 (2)(c)(iv-vi) states that a WSP may set conditions for limiting or discontinuation of water services, and indicate circumstances and procedures for this, and measures to promote water conservation and demand management. These procedures must be fair and reasonable notice for the intention must be given.

The water supply in the Sol Plaatje Municipality has historically come under extensive pressure during summer months, and some zones were never designed to accommodate watering of lawns and gardens (irrigation).

To manage these issues, water restrictions in some form or other has to be implemented during the summer months, or during drought or emergency water conditions. This will be implemented to manage the demand on various zones to acceptable levels, and for security of supply. These restrictions have, in the past, been implemented in an ad-hoc fashion and have never been formalized by Council.

Sol Plaatje Municipality is committed to ensuring a consistent approach in the imposition of "Water Restrictions" throughout its area of jurisdiction. To achieve this the municipality may implement "Water Restrictions" in accordance with applicable triggers for the stage of restriction being met, and level as prescribed in sections 48 and 49 of the Water Services By-laws (the by-laws). Introduction or removal of water restrictions will be in accordance with the triggers nominated herein and also in compliance with relevant Acts.

## 2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Policy is to provide a consistent approach to the imposition of Water Restrictions when necessary.

This policy sets to address concerns relating to demand management by ensuring that the time periods when "normal" water use is permitted is moved away from generally expected peak demand for all normal water use (industrial and domestic).

It is also intended to give consumers an indication of permissible practices which are allowed during each level of restriction, thereby making compliance and enforcement easier. This will provide a clear definition of how transgressions of restrictions will be dealt with, i.e. enforcement.



### 3. LEGISLATION

National Water Act, (Act 36 of 1998)

Water Services Act, (Act 108 of 1997)

Section 10 Water Services Regulations, (Regulations R501)

Municipal Finance Management Act, (Act 56 of 2003)

Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, (Act 32 of 2000)

### 4. RESTRICTIONS

The “water restrictions” shall be implemented in five (5) stages or levels as follows:

4.1 Stage/Level one: Restrictions are intended to enforce sensible use of water and to prevent inefficient water use practices, by reducing non-essential use of water by 20%. These restrictions are meant to minimize unnecessary water consumption during peak daily demand periods, but to have little impact on amenity of community and residential assets. This may be achieved by enforcing water restrictions tariffs and other related measures as approved by Council.

Restriction	Permitted Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Even numbered</b> properties may hose on even days.</li> <li>• <b>Odd numbered</b> properties may hose on odd days.</li> <li>• Limit water use to 600 litres per day per household (18kl/month)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any activity requiring water from a hose connected to the scheme supply.</li> <li>• Operation of micro-spray irrigation systems</li> <li>• Operation of automatic irrigation systems</li> </ul>

4.2 Stage/Level two: Restrictions are designed to reduce non-essential water use by 40% of average consumption. Non-essential residential and commercial use is limited to alternative days, and watering of lawns and filling of swimming pools is banned.

Restriction	Permitted Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same restrictions as in Level 1 above.</li> <li>• Hosing is only permitted between the hours of 18:00 and 06:00.</li> <li>• Watering of lawns and filling of swimming pools is banned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any activity requiring water from a hose connected to the scheme supply.</li> <li>• Operation of micro-spray irrigation systems.</li> <li>• Operation of automatic irrigation systems</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit water use to 300 litres per day per household (19kl/month)</li> </ul>	
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4.3 Stage/Level three: Non-essential use is reduced by 70% of average consumption. Watering of residential, commercial and public gardens is limited to levels intended to prevent long term vegetation damage. Normal watering of lawns is banned.

Restriction	Permitted Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No watering of lawns and gardens, public and residential.</li> <li>Hosing may only be carried out by hand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watering of gardens to prevent long term vegetation damage only.</li> <li>Washing vehicles and building exteriors using buckets only.</li> </ul>

4.4 Stage/Level four: Restrictions only allow the consumption of water for essential public health purposes. All non-essential uses are banned.

Restriction	Permitted Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All non-public health water use is banned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ONLY water use essential for public health is permitted.</li> <li>Watering essential to keep plants alive may be applied using a bucket or watering can ONLY</li> </ul>

4.5 Stage/Level Five: Water Conservation Notice. Water restrictions are imposed to effect emergency water conservation (Emergency Management). No non-essential water use is permitted at any time during the restriction. Only essential domestic, industrial and commercial use may be permitted under strict monitoring.

Restriction	Permitted Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Non-essential water use is permitted at any time during restrictions.</li> <li>Only applicable to areas identified as being affected by the emergency water conservation situation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential domestic, commercial and industrial uses ONLY.</li> <li>Watering essential to keep plants alive may be applied using a bucket or watering can ONLY.</li> </ul>



## 5. CATALYST FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTRICTIONS

Among other triggers for water restriction imposition, the following are the main triggers:

- Inability of the water system to provide sufficient water to meet consumer demand. This is generally indicated by reports of pressure lower than normal during peak periods. In this case water restrictions are imposed to ensure equity of access to the available system pressure in the supply system.
- Inability of the water resource system to provide sufficient water to a water supply system, to meet consumer demand. In this case, restrictions are implemented to protect the resource's natural environment. Such restrictions are implemented to ensure that water removal from the resource match the municipality water rights. These are normally triggered by events of drought, occurring under the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 and directed by National Department of Water and Sanitation.
- Other trigger may be when the river levels fall to the level contained in the water use license. Such triggers are generally related to the surety of levels for irrigation or abstraction from the river, and are instigated by the Department of Water and Sanitation together with relevant Catchment Management Agency.
- Any other trigger due to emergency situation that have an impact on surety of supply.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

When water restrictions are imposed, regardless of stage or level, Water Restrictions Tariffs" for water services as approved by council shall be put to effect, and shall apply to all residential, commercial and industrial water uses where water is supplied from Sol Plaatje municipality's water supply system. When necessary, water restrictions may be imposed to water supplied from boreholes within Sol Plaatje Municipality area of jurisdiction.

The water restriction stage or level shall be advertised in local media and may be effective from the first day of the first advertisement.

Property owners or consumers identified as in breach of this policy shall:

- Be warned first if the breach considered to be minor, or
- Be issued a non-compliance (infringement) fine if considered to be serious, or
- Be prosecuted and fined if found to be repeated offenders in accordance with applicable by-laws.



## 7. EXEMPTIONS

Complete or part exemption from any level of water restriction may be given by Sol Plaatje Municipality. Furthermore, a consumer may apply for Special Exemption using the Special Exemption Application form obtainable from Water Services Authority & Compliance office of Infrastructure and Services Directorate.

## 8. COMMUNICATION

Resources dedicated to communicating information and advertising to the community will be scaled to the severity of the water supply situation. Community communication may occur through the following media:

- local newspaper;
- radio;
- television;
- street signage;
- Bus and taxi shelter advertising;
- tourism brochures,
- stickers,
- rates notice and/or water bill inserts;
- mail outs;
- Council website and telephone "hold; message;
- social media platforms,
- or any other format useful to consumers, residents and visitors.

## 9. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Municipal Manager, as the Accounting Officer, is responsible for ensuring overall implementation and compliance with the policy. The Municipal Manager must inform the Department of Water and Sanitation, through Northern Cape Regional Office, and the consumers of the intention to restrict, and within fourteen (14) calendar days after beginning to restrict the water supply, indicating the envisaged duration of such water restrictions.

The Municipal Manager may delegate part or full implementation of and compliance with the policy to Manager: Water Services Authority & Compliance.



## Summary of responsibilities

<b>Position</b>	<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Executive Mayor	Council	To lead Councillors in their understanding of, and compliance with, this Policy and Guidelines.
Municipal Manager	Executive	To lead staff (either directly or through delegated authority) in their understanding of, and compliance with, this Policy and Guidelines.  To approve resources to develop, implement and review this Policy and Guidelines.
Manager: WSA & Compliance	Infrastructure & Services	To advise the Municipal Manager with regard to current situation of the water supply production, storages and the impact of current droughts or drought forecasts.
City Engineer: Water & Sanitation	Water and Sanitation	To advise the Municipal Manager with regard to current operations and maintenance situation of the water supply distribution and the impact of current droughts or drought forecasts on security of supply.
Manager: Communication	Corporate Services	Communication and advertisement of the restrictions, and keeping consumers up-dated on the situation.
Municipal Officials	Water Works	To comply with this Policy, Guidelines and related procedures.
Community	Public Office: Speaker's Office	To comply with Water Restriction Notices.

## 10. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Policy becomes effective and wholly enforceable from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2017. Its prescripts will be implemented according to the conditions set out herein.