

### **WATER RESTRICTIONS POLICY**

**Intent** To establish a policy and approval process for the imposition of water restrictions by Cairns Regional Council.

**Scope** This policy applies to all users including commercial, industrial, residential and government users of potable water supplied from Cairns Regional Council.

#### **PROVISIONS**

*Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* (the Act) provides Cairns Regional Council with the power to restrict water supply due to climatic conditions or for water conservation needs. Under s 41(2) of the Act Cairns Regional Council may only impose restrictions in the following circumstances:

1. There is an urgent need for the service provider water restriction or;
2. The available water supply has fallen to a level at which unrestricted use of water is not in the public interest; or
3. The service provider has a reasonable and comprehensive strategy for demand management for water and the restriction is essential to ensure the aims of the strategy are met; or
4. The Minister has published a notice under the *Water Act 2000* section 25B, or a regulation has been made under the *Water Act 2000*, section 25F, and the restriction is for the purposes of the notice or regulation; or
5. The water service provider is directed, under a water supply emergency declaration, a water supply emergency regulation or an approved water supply emergency response, to impose the restriction; or
6. The water service provider is directed by the regulator under section 42(2) of the Act to impose the restriction.

Cairns Regional may impose the following types of restrictions:

1. The volume of water supplied to a customer or type of customer; or
2. The hours when water may be used on premises for stated purposes; or
3. The way water may be used on premises.

#### **Approval to Impose Restrictions**

In normal circumstances, approval to impose water restrictions must be sought via a report to the Ordinary Meeting and recommendation to the Chief Executive Officer as delegate for Council for the water restriction powers under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*.

In emergency situations, the Chief Executive Officer may impose water restrictions in accordance with this policy and the provisions of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* upon advice from the Director Cairns Infrastructure and Assets. In these circumstances a report on actions taken must be provided to the next scheduled Ordinary meeting.

### **Notification of Water Restrictions**

For s 43(1) of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* Cairns Regional Council must give notice of the water restriction to anyone affected by it in the way considered appropriate having regard to the circumstances in which the restriction is imposed.

Except in emergencies the notice will be advertised in the local media. In emergencies the notice will be given in the way the Chief Executive Officer considers appropriate.

Under s 43(4) of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*, water restrictions ordinarily do not have effect until the beginning of the day after the notice is given however, if the restrictions are because of an urgent need or water supply emergency declaration, this effect is when the restriction is imposed.

### **Exemptions**

The Director Cairns Infrastructure and Assets as delegate of the Chief Executive Officer may grant exemptions to water restrictions upon application from water users based on the following grounds:

1. For reasons of public health and safety
2. To allow the undertaking of essential works
3. Minor or infrequent uses of water outside the restrictions (e.g. sporting or community events)
4. Any other criteria deemed appropriate under the water supply conditions at the time.

### **Non-compliance with Water Restrictions**

Failure to comply with water restrictions may incur penalties as described in s 43(5) of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*.

◆◆◆◆◆

**This Policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.**

**Director Responsible for Review:**

**Director Cairns Infrastructure Assets**

**ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 21/03/2001  
CURRENT ADOPTION: 12/11/2025  
DUE FOR REVISION: 12/11/2029  
REVOKED/SUPERSEDED:**



**Ken Gouldthorp  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**