

1 December 2018

## Essential Water introduces Level 1 water restrictions

Essential Water will introduce Level 1 water restrictions from Saturday 1 December 2018 in response to trigger points such as no significant inflows to the Darling or local water catchment areas, and local consumption of treated water has moved above 16 megalitres (ML) per day for three consecutive days.

Head of Water Operations, John Coffey, said that although Essential Water is looking forward to the new supply from the Murray River being commissioned in April 2019, it is being proactive in making every effort to ensure treated water quality remains high.

“Level 1 restrictions promote efficient water use. Essential Water is maintaining its assessment that a major drought period is likely and Level 1 restrictions driving efficient water use assists in preparing consumers for further restrictions should they be introduced,” said Mr Coffey.

Mr Coffey said Level 1 water restrictions prohibit:

- the use of domestic and public sprinklers, automatic watering systems and fixed or hand-held hoses for irrigation of gardens and lawns between 10am and 7pm
- the washing of vehicles with fixed or hand-held hoses, other than to wet and rinse the vehicle with the use of a trigger hose. An exemption may be applied for where the cleaning of a vehicle is necessary either to avoid contamination or to ensure public safety
- the use of fixed or hand-held hoses to clean hard or paved surfaces including windows and building facades. An exemption may be applied for in relation to occupational health and safety issues for commercial, industrial or public areas
- the filling of an empty swimming pool, spa, pond, lake or other water body
- the filling or topping up of a farm dam or tank. An exemption may be applied for where a dam or tank provides water for domestic or stock consumption or fire fighting
- the filling of mobile water tankers for any purpose other than a fire, public health or emergency situation.

Exemptions may be applied for by contacting Essential Water on 13 23 91.

Mr Coffey said those who ignore the restrictions will be identified and receive written notification of the breach.

“This is an issue affecting the community so we’d be grateful to see local residents embrace the Level 1 water restrictions during the ongoing drought conditions and heading into the warmer months,” he said.

Restrictions will apply in Broken Hill, Menindee, Silverton and Sunset Strip in accordance with the Water Management Act 2000, Water Management (General) Regulation 2011, Part 9, Division 3, Subdivision 5, Clause 136.

For more information on Level 1 water restrictions and water efficiency tips visit <http://www.essentialwater.com.au/content/sustainability>

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Essential Energy operates one of Australia’s largest electricity networks, spanning 95 per cent of New South Wales’ and parts of southern Queensland. Owned by the New South Wales Government, Essential Energy also provides water and sewerage services to customers in far western New South Wales.