

Principles - Level 3 Enhanced Water Restrictions for All Council/Developer Outdoor Irrigation

Maintaining community open space, sports grounds and regional passive recreation areas in a 'fit for use' condition in the interests of public health and safety is important even in a time of drought.

The South Australian Government is committed to ensure, even in drought years, impacts of water availability on the broad community of South Australia can be effectively managed. The *Code of Practice - Irrigated Public Open Space* (IPOS) has been developed to provide a framework and management principles for efficient public purpose irrigation.

Since adopting the Code Adelaide metropolitan councils have significantly reduced potable water consumption in the order of billions of litres per year, helping to further reduce pressure on the State's mains water supply.

Consequently in 2009-10 all outdoor water use by all councils will come under an allocation and the Code will provide the framework for water use efficiency and water consumption reporting for the irrigation of public open space. This will provide open space managers with the flexibility needed to operate irrigation efficiency.

Allocations will include all outdoor water use within councils. Individual allocations must be negotiated in conjunction with each council and include a review of water savings over a five year average in addition to future water saving targets.

The Code will provide the framework for managing and reporting irrigation of public open space within this allocation. Savings will be made by reducing the number of lower value sites with a view to installing alternative landscape treatments.

As a result, less green landscapes and the 'browning off' of many passive or low functional sites and re-landscaping with appropriate dry landscape treatments will be required to maintain community high value functional sites such as active sports grounds in a 'fit for use' condition.

The following principles are relevant to current Enhanced Level 3 Water Restrictions. However if restrictions increase these principles will be reviewed to reflect the current level of restrictions.

Council allocation

Council allocation includes all outdoor water use:

- Active sports ground Base Irrigation Requirement (BIR)
- Active sports ground Actual Irrigation Requirement Buffer (prediction of irrigation requirement above the BIR for the new season)
- Passive BIR
- Trees/community gardens
- Planned new trees/community gardens
- Wickets
- Other (eg council nursery, lake, etc)

The process

All councils will be required to complete an irrigation efficiency report detailing average water use for the past five years for each sports ground and recreational site in addition to a summary of irrigation management for community gardens and trees. Completed reports can then be forwarded to IPOS Administration – email iposadmin@sawater.com.au

SA Water will contact councils to discuss water allocation for 2009-10. Once an allocation is determined the council must enter into an agreement to undertake irrigation management of sports and recreational facilities based on the principals of the Code according to the relevant Turf Quality Visual Standard (TQVS) and that all other irrigation will adhere to the water restrictions set by the State Government.

Monthly reporting to SA Water using a supplied template will be required for all sports grounds and recreational facilities managed by councils.

For all related enquiries please contact – IPOS Administration via email iposadmin@sawater.com.au or phone 08 7424 3753.

Key Principles

Irrigation	Principle
Turf road verges	<p>No functional community benefit – aesthetic benefit only and are not to be irrigated.</p> <p>Turf irrigation systems cannot be used unless the verge is adjoining a park and an exemption has been granted.</p>
Turf road median strips	<p>Minimal functional community benefit and are not to be irrigated.</p> <p>Where functional benefit can be demonstrated an exemption may be granted on the following terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sprinkler systems can be used on one nominated night per week between the hours of 8pm and 8am, excluding Saturday or Sunday subject to demonstrated functional community benefit • Submission to SA Water of an Irrigation Efficiency Report detailing average water use for the past five years for each site • Irrigation management is based on the principals of the Code and meets BIR according to TQVS 4.
Turf entry statements	<p>Feature lawns with no functional community benefit not associated with a community building. Turf irrigation systems cannot be used and domestic restrictions apply (see Trees and or community gardens for further details).</p>
Community building feature lawns	<p>Feature lawns which surround community buildings (eg libraries and municipal offices) with aesthetic value only are considered similar to residential lawns. Turf irrigation systems cannot be used and domestic restrictions apply (see Tree and or community gardens for further details).</p>
Trees and or community gardens	<p>For existing trees and feature landscapes managed by Local or State Government, or commercial organisations which may include trees, flower beds, ornamental gardens and other planted sites. Restrictions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand held hoses fitted with trigger nozzles may be used on any day for a maximum of 5 hours either between 7am to 10am or 4pm to 7pm (during non daylight savings periods) and 6am to 9am or 6pm to 9pm (during daylight savings) • Drip irrigation systems may be used for a maximum period of 5 hours per week on any day (per site). Drip irrigation systems may be used for a longer time period determined in conjunction with SA Water if this is not sufficient and there is suitable explanation. The time frame for irrigation is between 8pm-8am • SA Water encourages designed landscapes that require establishment watering and then minimal supplementary irrigation during extended hot periods if required. Please refer to 'New Trees and Community Gardens'. • Watering cans and buckets may be used at any time • Watering directly from a motor vehicle designed and approved to carry/deposit water.
New trees and or community gardens	<p>New trees and or feature landscapes managed by Local or State Government, or commercial organisations which may include trees, flower beds, ornamental gardens, and other planted sites. When planning a new landscape, SA Water encourages councils and developers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design landscapes suited to the local environment which require minimal supplementary irrigation and that efficient irrigation is practiced within the current level of restrictions • Irrigation systems must be designed to provide plants with their individual water requirements • Irrigation designs must be sighted by SA Water IPOS Administration • Irrigation requirements of landscapes developed on behalf of councils by developers must fit into the council's allocation and irrigation planning parameters, as well as current level water restriction.

Local/neighbourhood parks (TQVS 4)	<p>Parks that function for the benefit of the community and provide green areas for passive recreation and or have facilities such as playgrounds. Irrigation may be used between the hours of 8pm and 8am on one nominated night, excluding Saturday or Sunday subject to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to SA Water of an Irrigation Efficiency Report detailing average water use for the past five years for each site • Irrigation management is based on the principals of the Code and meets BIR according to TQVS 4 • Critical functional areas may only be irrigated (eg areas directly surrounding a playground).
Strategic regional parks (TQVS 4)	<p>Parks that have regional significance for community passive recreation or special events. Councils must demonstrate regional significance by way of usage trends and scheduling of special events. Irrigation may be used between the hours of 8pm and 8am on any night, excluding Saturday or Sunday subject to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to SA Water of an Irrigation Efficiency Report detailing average water use for the past five years for each site • Irrigation management is based on the principals of the and meet BIR according to TQVS 4 • Critical functional areas may only be irrigated. <p>Councils must nominate an equal area of local/neighbourhood parks that will cease to be irrigated to enable water to be transferred to regional parks.</p>
Active sports grounds (TQVS 1-3)	<p>Sports grounds used for competitive sports required to be maintained in a 'fit for use' condition in the interests of public safety. Irrigation may be used between the hours of 8pm and 8am on any night, excluding Saturday or Sunday subject to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to SA Water of an Irrigation Efficiency Report detailing average water use for the past five years for each site • Irrigation management is based on the principals of the Code according to the relevant TQVS level.
Turf cricket pitches	<p>In addition to the exemptions outlined for active sports grounds, turf cricket pitch areas may be watered as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf cricket wickets may be watered via sprinklers for a maximum of twice per week for a period of up to two hours per watering between the hours of 8pm and 8am. This should occur following the completion of play on either a Saturday or Sunday and on Wednesday's to enable wicket preparation for the following week's play • Practice wickets may be watered via sprinklers on nominated days Sunday and Fridays for a maximum of one hour between the hours of 8pm and 8am • Hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle may be used at any time for wicket preparation.
Permits for testing and maintenance of irrigation systems	<p>It is important to adequately test and maintain irrigation systems. Permits will be granted to councils and other organisations managing irrigated public open space. Testing of irrigation systems may occur at any time provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate signage is on display advising that irrigation testing is in progress. eg: IRRIGATION TESTING IN PROGRESS SA WATER PERMIT No – xxxxxxxxxx • Sprinklers can operate for a maximum of five minutes • Irrigation maintenance personnel must be onsite at all times during testing • SA Water must be notified prior to testing begins.
Permits for establishment of new or renovated turf	<p>If turf management requires seeding new turf or special irrigation event due to renovation or pest and weed control, councils must negotiate special exemption directly with SA Water. Water consumption must fit in with the original allocation.</p>
Permits for all other water use	<p>Councils must negotiate with SA Water for special exemption and water consumption must fit in with original allocation.</p>