



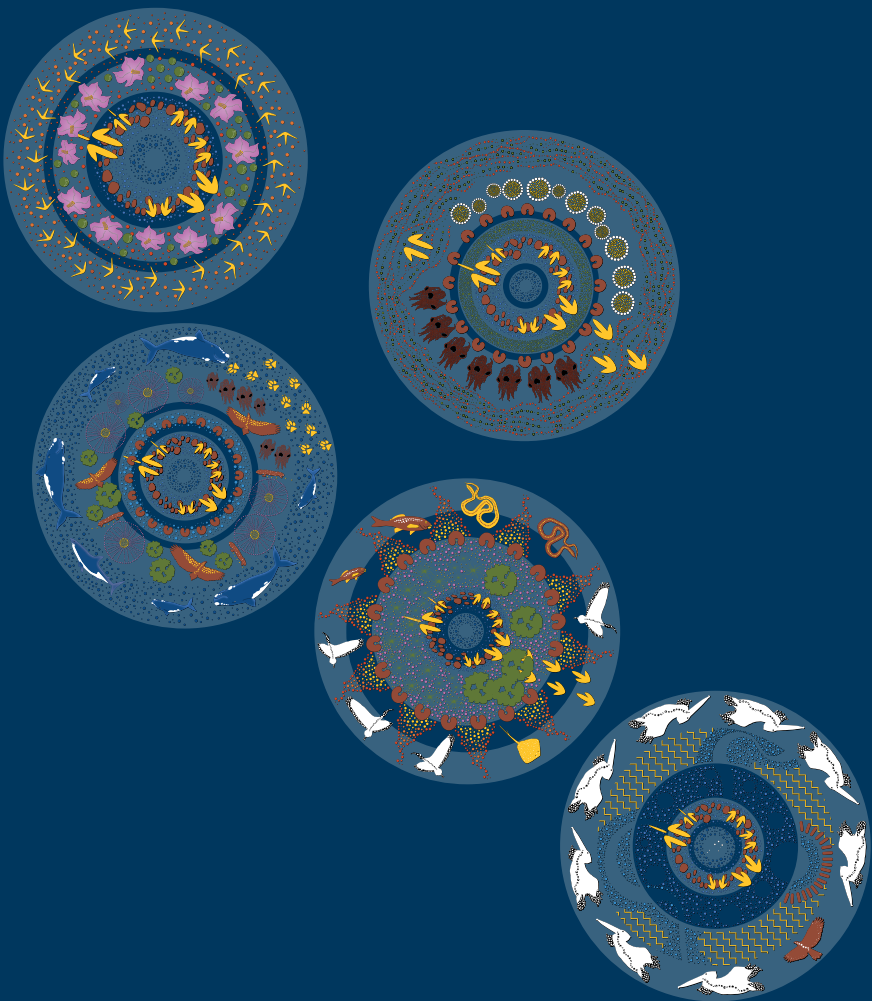
Water Security Response Plan Eyre Peninsula



Government of
South Australia

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout South Australia and in other areas of Australia where we operate and recognise their unique and continuing connection to lands and waters. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples visiting or living in South Australia.



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Managing water security on the Eyre Peninsula

Water supports the growth of the Eyre Peninsula and the prosperity of the local communities, environment, First Nations and economy.

A hotter and drier climate is reducing available sources of water in the region, and this is combined with an increase in demand for water. In this changing environment, we must manage water security to deliver sufficient water supply to the community, protect existing water sources on the Eyre Peninsula and develop a new, climate-independent water source.

There is increasing evidence that current levels of groundwater extraction on the Eyre Peninsula are unsustainable. To address this, the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board is reviewing and amending the region's Water Allocation Plan, and we are constructing a new seawater desalination plant.

This Water Security Response Plan sets out how SA Water and the Government of South Australia will maintain water supply until the new desalination plant is operational and is part of ensuring the ongoing health of local groundwater basins. This approach supports our plans to ensure water security into the future.

The need for a climate-independent water source

On the Eyre Peninsula, a climate-independent desalination plant is needed to meet future growth and water demand for the long-term, and building it at Billy Lights Point provides the most cost-effective and timely solution to achieve this.

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board is responsible for developing and maintaining Water Allocation Plans, which set out the rules for managing the use of local prescribed water sources.

This includes the Southern Basins and Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas, which takes in Uley South Basin, which currently supplies the majority of the region's drinking water.

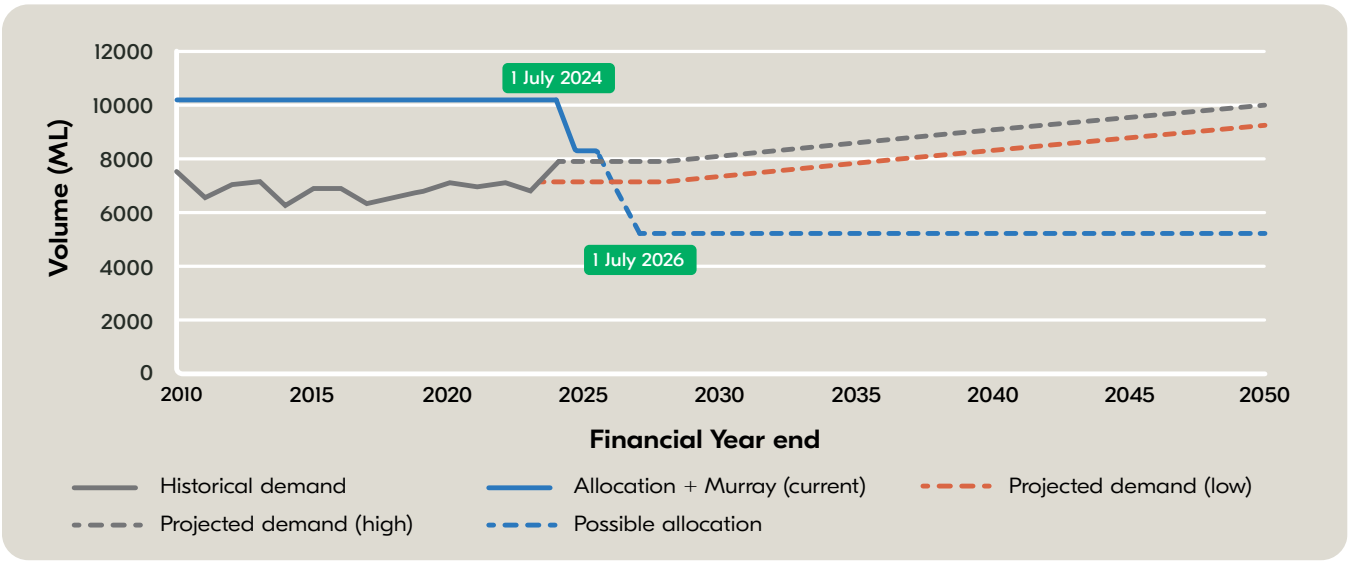
The Department for Environment and Water has identified a long-term trend of declining water levels and increasing salinity in inland supply wells in the Southern Basins. A number of factors, including a changing climate, continued extraction and changes to the way in which the basins recharge, have contributed to this issue.

In April 2024, the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board advised of anticipated amendments to the Water Allocation Plan which may significantly reduce how much water SA Water is licensed to pump from the Southern Basins from July 2026.

The volume of water we are licensed to extract from the Uley South Basin may be reduced from 7.2 gigalitres (7.2 billion litres) a year to 3.5 gigalitres (3.5 billion litres), with no water to be extracted from Lincoln Basin and Uley Wanilla Lens, which currently enable peak demands to be met during summer months.

If this occurs, we will not have enough water from existing River Murray and groundwater sources to meet current levels of demand from the community. A seawater desalination plant will offset declining groundwater availability, however we need to maintain a level of supply to the region until this new water source is available.

A desalination plant will mean we can provide a long-term supply of safe, clean drinking water to our Eyre Peninsula customers at the current volumes and meet growth needs.



Impact of anticipated changes to Water Allocation Plan

Stakeholder engagement

This plan was developed with our customers front of mind. In 2024, we undertook comprehensive stakeholder engagement to improve our understanding of water use on the Eyre Peninsula, identify opportunities for efficiencies, and discuss the potential social and economic impacts of water restrictions. Stakeholders included all 10 local councils, Primary Producers SA, Grain Producers SA, Livestock SA, Ag Innovation & Research EP, Regional Development Australia EP, as well as local business and farming groups.

Feedback has informed the activities outlined in this plan.

We continue to work closely with other government departments and agencies as well as stakeholders and communities on the Eyre Peninsula, in implementing this plan.

Our response

Our plan provides a structured approach that guides us in and out of different levels of water security, from usual water availability through to an extreme water shortage.

It gives us steps to take, together with the Eyre Peninsula community, to ensure we continue to provide drinking water until a climate-independent and sustainable seawater desalination plant is operational.

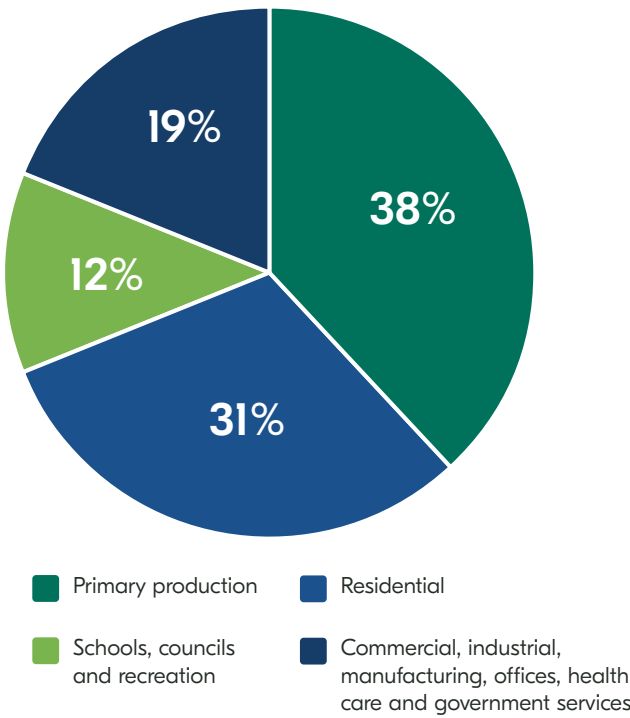
To see the current response level for the Eyre Peninsula, as well as tools and resources to help you save water, visit [sawater.com.au/EPwatersecurity](https://www.sawater.com.au/EPwatersecurity).

Supply and demand

Each year we provide about 8 gigalitres (8 billion litres) of water through our Eyre Peninsula supply systems.

Water is used by industry, primary production and residential customers. While demand varies each year based on seasonal conditions, it is increasing over time as the population grows and industries continue to expand.

The increase in water demand will exceed current available supply and we cannot continue to sustainably extract water from existing groundwater sources at the current rate.



Water demand on the Eyre Peninsula by customer segment

Response levels

There are 4 levels in our Water Security Response Plan. To see the current response level for Eyre Peninsula and full details on the actions being taken, visit sawater.com.au/EPwatersecurity.

Each level is designed to ensure we meet our commitments to our customers while continuing to manage valuable water resources.

Level	Description	Water use behaviour	Trigger to move
Level 1	Usual water availability	Use water wisely	Less water available Move to Level 2: water resources meet current demand, but limited opportunity to support growth.
Level 2	Reduced water availability	Save water	Additional water available Move to Level 1: water resources exceed demand. Less water available Move to Level 3: water resources not able to meet current demand.
Level 3	Limited water availability	Water restrictions	Additional water available Move to Level 1: water resources exceed demand. Move to Level 2: additional water resources become available, supply meets demand. Less water available Move to Level 4: water resources are significantly below demand.
Level 4	Extreme water shortage	Water for critical human needs only	Additional water available Move to Level 1: water resources exceed demand. Move to Level 2: supply meets demand. Move to Level 3: water resources not able to meet current demand.

Our local customers have been grouped into 4 categories based on similar use of water:

1. residential
2. commercial, industrial, office and other business
3. local government, schools and recreational use
4. primary producers.

The following tables provide an overview of the actions for each group for levels 2-4.

Permits for water use

Individuals or organisations that need to use water in a way that varies from the limits set out in this plan must seek a permit specific to their requirement. Permits will be assessed by SA Water and will be at no cost.

See sawater.com.au/EPwatersecurity for full details.

Actions we are taking

We actively manage water resources and our supply networks through all response levels, working together with the community.

We manage our network and water sources closely by:

- monitoring and managing water demand and supply
- planning investment in new water resources, particularly the desalination plant at Billy Lights Point
- managing water sources in the existing basins.

For the community, we provide:

- Proactive communication, engagement and education about water wise behaviours at each level, and changes between levels, including education programs for school-aged children.
- Rebates to encourage customers to install water efficient appliances and fixtures.
- Online tools and resources to help households understand and reduce their water use.
- Targeted water efficiency assessments for commercial, industrial and primary production customers who use more than 1 megalitre (1 million litres) or more a year, to help identify opportunities to save water.

Rebates

To help make every drop count, rebates are available to encourage customers to install water efficient appliances and fixtures.

Rebates are offered in levels 2-4 of this response plan, providing a further incentive for households and businesses to boost water efficiency both inside and outside their home or workplace.

Full details on how to apply are at sawater.com.au/EPwatersecurity.

Who is eligible?

Customers on the Eyre Peninsula to the west of Iron Knob who:

- use water from an SA Water meter at home or work
- have water supplied by a private individual, organisation or local government that sources the water from SA Water, including Water West at Ceduna.

We continue to work with the primary production sector to identify opportunities for water efficiency rebates.

Level 2 – reduced water availability, save water

At level 2 we offer:

- Proactive communication, engagement and education about how to save water.
- Rebates to encourage customers to install water efficient appliances and fixtures.
- Online tools and resources to help households understand and reduce their water use.
- Targeted water efficiency assessments for commercial, industrial and primary production customers using more than 1 megalitre (1 million litres) of water a year.

Level 3 – limited water availability, water restrictions

At level 3 we offer:

- Proactive communication, engagement and education about water restrictions.
- Rebates to encourage customers to install water efficient appliances and fixtures.
- Online tools and resources to help households understand and reduce their water use.
- Targeted water efficiency assessments for commercial, industrial and primary production customers who use more than 1 megalitre (1 million litres) of water a year to help identify opportunities to save water.

Level 4 – extreme water shortage, water for critical human needs only

At level 4 we offer proactive communication, engagement and education about water being used for critical human needs only.

New commercial and industrial customers

For Levels 2-4, we are unable to support large new commercial or industrial customers (using +>15 megalitres of water a year) until the desalination plant is operational.

At levels 3 and 4, new customers using 5-15 megalitres of water a year must have a permit.

Housing and non-residential developments

For levels 2-4, housing and non-residential developments for community purposes (such as aged care and medical facilities, and child care centres) are permitted.



Residential customers



Level
2

Education

- Attend a community education event in your local area to learn more about water efficiency.
- Use tools and resources available at sawater.com.au to understand household water use and where savings can be made.

Indoor water use

- Use our online household calculator to understand how much water you use and how to be more efficient.
- Upgrade appliances and fittings through our rebate scheme for toilets, shower heads and washing machines.
- Repair leaking taps, showers and appliances.

Outdoor watering

- Access our rebate scheme for irrigation timers.
- Identify and repair leaks in irrigation systems.
- Water at night to avoid evaporation.

Pools and spas

- Install a cover to reduce evaporation when not in use.
- Access our rebate scheme for swimming pool covers.
- Check pool equipment for leaks and repair.

Indoor water use

- Indoor use for households is considered critical human water needs — continue to be water wise.

Outdoor watering

Gardens may only be watered:

- using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, at any time, on any day; or
- using a watering system (manual, automatic, spray or dripper), 6am-8am and/or 6pm-8pm on alternate days and in accordance with the following:
 - even and no-numbered properties may only water on even dates (2, 4, 6 etc).
 - odd-numbered properties may only water on odd dates (1, 3, 5 etc).

Level
3

Pools and spas

- New or existing pools and spas up to 2,000 litres capacity may only be filled with a hand-held hose, bucket or an automatic water top-up device.
- New or existing pools and spas of more than 2,000 litres capacity may only be filled in accordance with a permit.
- New or existing pools or spas (of any size) that have been previously filled may only be topped up:
 - using an automatic water top-up device at any time.
 - using a hand-held hose, bucket or watering can, between 6am-8am and/or 6pm-8pm. and in accordance with the following:
 - o even and no-numbered properties on even dates (2, 4, 6 etc).
 - o odd-numbered properties on odd dates (1, 3, 5 etc).

Cleaning hard surfaces

- Hard surfaces, including driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking and other paved areas, must not be hosed down, except where cleaning is required due to an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency.

Vehicle and boat washing

- Vehicles (including cars, boats, caravans and others) may be washed at any time and only using a high-pressure cleaning unit, a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, bucket, watering can; or a commercial car wash.

Construction or renovation

- During construction or renovation, cleaning may only be undertaken using a high-pressure cleaning unit, or, if such a unit is unavailable, a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or a bucket.

Level
4

Indoor water use

- Indoor use for households is considered critical human water needs — continue to be water wise.

Outdoor watering

Gardens may only be watered:

- using watering cans and buckets (at any time).
- using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or drip-watering system for a maximum of 3 hours per week and in accordance with the following:
 - even and no-numbered properties on Saturday between either 6-9am or 5-8pm
 - odd numbered properties on Sunday between either 6-9am or 5-8pm.
- Sprinkler systems must not be used.

Pools and spas

- New or existing residential pools or spas of any capacity must not be filled.
- Existing residential pools and spas may only be topped up using a bucket or watering can or in accordance with an approved permit.

Cleaning hard surfaces

- Hard surfaces (including driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking and other paved areas) must not be hosed down, except where cleaning is required due to an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency.

Vehicle and boat washing

- Cleaning may only occur where it is required for health and safety reasons, to address a safety hazard, remove corrosive substances or address another emergency. Cleaning must be limited to the windows, mirrors, lights and registration plates. This may be done by using a bucket or watering can, or at a commercial car wash.

Construction or renovation

- During construction or renovation, cleaning may only be undertaken using a high-pressure cleaning unit or, if such a unit is unavailable, a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or a bucket.



Commercial, industrial and business customers



Level
2

Education

- Access free water efficiency assessments for high water users (using 1 megalitre [1 million litres] a year or more) to identify water saving opportunities.

Indoor water use

- Upgrade appliances and fittings through our rebate scheme for toilets, shower heads and washing machines.
- Install leak detection and/or a smart meter to measure water usage and identify leaks.
- Repair leaking taps, showers and appliances.

Outdoor watering

- Access our rebate scheme for irrigation timers.
- Identify and repair leaks in irrigation systems.
- Water at night to avoid evaporation.
- Consider changing your water source for irrigation from drinking water to recycled water or stormwater, if available.

Pools and spas

- Install a cover to reduce evaporation when not in use.
- Access our rebate scheme for swimming pool covers.
- Check pool equipment for leaks and repair.

Cleaning hard surfaces

- Proactively reduce water use on hard surfaces, and vehicle and boat washing by only using high-pressure cleaning units, blowers or hoses with trigger nozzles for cleaning paving.

Level
3

Large water users (5ML/year or more)

- A permit is mandatory for using more than 5 megalitres of water a year for any purpose.

Outdoor watering

Gardens may only be watered:

- using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, at any time, on any day; or
- using a watering system (manual, automatic, spray or dripper), between 6am-8am and/or 6pm-8pm on alternate days and in accordance with the following:
 - even and no-numbered properties may only water on even dates (2, 4, 6 etc).
 - odd-numbered properties may only water on odd dates (1, 3, 5 etc).

Pools and spas

- New or existing pools or spas of greater than 2,000 litres capacity may only be filled in accordance with a permit.

Cleaning hard surfaces

- Hard surfaces (including driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking and other paved areas) must not be hosed down, except where cleaning is required due to an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency.

Vehicle and boat washing

- Vehicles (including cars, boats, caravans and other vehicles) may be washed at any time and only using a high-pressure cleaning unit, a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, bucket, watering can; or a commercial car wash.

Construction or renovation

- During construction or renovation, cleaning may only be undertaken using a high-pressure cleaning unit or, if such a unit is unavailable, a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or a bucket.
- Water must not be used for dust suppression and compaction unless it is applied from a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or directly from a vehicle designed and approved to carry/deposit water.

Level
4

Large water users (5ML/year or more)

- A permit is mandatory for using more than 5 megalitres of water a year for any purpose.

Outdoor watering

- Commercial gardens and lawns must not be watered.

Pools and spas

- New or existing commercial pools or spas must not be filled.
- Existing commercial pools and spas must have a permit with pools and spas only topped up using a bucket or watering can or in accordance with an approved permit.

Cleaning hard surfaces

- Hard surfaces (including driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking and other paved areas) must not be hosed down, except where cleaning is required due to an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency.

Vehicle and boat cleaning

- Cleaning may only occur where it is required for health and safety reasons, to address a safety hazard, remove corrosive substances or address another emergency. Cleaning must be limited to the windows, mirrors, lights and registration plates. This may be done by using a bucket or watering can, or at a commercial car wash.

Construction or renovation

- During construction or renovation, cleaning may only be undertaken using a high-pressure cleaning unit or, if such a unit is unavailable, a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or a bucket.
- Water must not be used for dust suppression and compaction unless it is applied from a handheld hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or directly from a vehicle designed and approved to carry/deposit water.



Local government, schools, recreation



Level 2	Education • Access free water efficiency assessments for high water users (using 1 megalitre a year or more) to identify water saving opportunities. • Access education program delivered for school-aged children.
	Indoor water use • Upgrade appliances and fittings through our rebate scheme for toilets, shower heads and washing machines. • Install leak detection and/or a smart meter to measure water usage and identify leaks. • Repair leaking taps, showers and appliances. • Identify recycled water opportunities and/or water reuse where available.
	Outdoor watering • Check irrigation for efficiency, repair leaks. • Consider changing your water source for irrigation from drinking water to recycled water or stormwater, if available.
	Pools and spas • Install a cover to reduce evaporation when not in use. • Access our rebate scheme for swimming pool covers. • Check pool equipment for leaks and repair.
	Cleaning hard surfaces • Proactively reduce water use on hard surfaces, and vehicle and boat washing by only using high-pressure cleaning units, blowers or hoses with trigger nozzles for cleaning paving.

Level 3	Large water users (5ML/year or more) • A permit is mandatory for using more than 5 megalitres of water a year for any purpose.
	Outdoor watering • Public gardens, lawns and playing surfaces may only be watered in accordance with an approved permit.
	Pools and spas • New or existing pools and spas of greater than 2,000 litres capacity may only be filled in accordance with a permit.
	Cleaning hard surfaces • Hard surfaces (including driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking and other paved areas) must not be hosed down, except where cleaning is required due to an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency.
	Vehicle and boat washing • Vehicles (including cars, boats, caravans and other vehicles) may be washed at any time and only using a high-pressure cleaning unit, a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, bucket, watering can; or a commercial car wash.
	Caravan and camping sites • Grassed sites may be watered with a sprinkler for not more than 30 minutes, not more than once per week, and at any time during that one-week period.
Level 4	Construction or renovation • During construction or renovation, cleaning may only be undertaken using a high-pressure cleaning unit or, if such a unit is unavailable, a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or a bucket.
	Large water users (5ML/year or more) • A permit is mandatory for using more than 5 megalitres of water a year for any purpose.
	Outdoor watering • Public gardens, lawns and playing surfaces may only be watered in accordance with an approved permit.
	Pools and spas • New or existing public pools and spas may only be filled or topped up in accordance with a permit.
	Cleaning hard surfaces • Hard surfaces (including driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking and other paved areas) must not be hosed down, except where cleaning is required due to an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency.
	Vehicle and boat washing • Cleaning may only occur where it is required for health and safety reasons, to address a safety hazard, remove corrosive substances or address another emergency. Cleaning must be limited to the windows, mirrors, lights and registration plates. This may only be done by using a bucket or watering can, or at a commercial car wash.
	Construction or renovation • During construction or renovation, cleaning may only be undertaken using a high-pressure cleaning unit or, if such a unit is unavailable, a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or a bucket.
	Caravan and camping sites • Grassed sites may be watered with a sprinkler for not more than 15 minutes, not more than once per week, and at any time during that one-week period.



Primary producers



Level 2	Education Access free water efficiency assessments for high water users (using 1 megalitre a year or more) to identify water saving opportunities.
	Cleaning hard surfaces Proactively reduce water use on hard surfaces, and vehicle and boat washing by only using high-pressure cleaning units or hoses with trigger nozzles.
Level 3	Farm water use - Proactively reduce water use on farm where possible. - Investigate additional rainwater tanks, HDPE-lined trench storage, and sheeted catchments. - Reduce water use for each crop spray wherever possible (e.g. 60 litres of water per hectare). - Install smart meter, additional on-farm meters, extra leak detection units.
	Large water users (5ML/year or more) A permit is mandatory for using more than 5 megalitres of water a year for any purpose.
	Outdoor watering Gardens may only be watered: - using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, at any time, on any day; or - using a watering system (manual, automatic, spray or dripper), between 6am-8am and/or 6pm-8pm on alternate days and in accordance with the following: - even and no-numbered properties may only water on even dates (2, 4, 6 etc). - odd-numbered properties may only water on odd dates (1, 3, 5 etc).
	Pools and spas A new or existing pool or spa of greater than 2,000 litres may only be filled in accordance with a permit.
	Cleaning hard surfaces Hard surfaces (including driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking and other paved areas) must not be hosed down, except where cleaning is required due to an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency.
	Vehicle washing Vehicles (including cars, boats, caravans and other vehicles) may be washed at any time and only using a high-pressure cleaning unit, a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, bucket, watering can; or a commercial car wash.

Level 3	Construction or renovation During construction or renovation, cleaning may only be undertaken using a high-pressure cleaning unit or, if such a unit is unavailable, a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or a bucket.
	Farm water use (including sheep, cattle, dryland cropping) - Metered water usage of more than 600KL in a year must be reduced by 10% in the following six-month period (using the long-term average calculation method). Notes on calculation: - Long-term average water use is calculated using actual meter readings (not estimates) over the five years 2019 to 2024 (preceding the implementation of the Response Plan). - This restriction applies to a single farming business or individual, and multiple meters and properties will be aggregated. - Application must be made to indicate changes in farm activity that may have impacted the water use calculation of the long-term average, and an alternate method agreed to with SA Water. - Exemption will be made if water use is required due to an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency, including biosecurity and stock health.
Level 4	Large water users (5ML/year or more) A permit is mandatory for using more than 5 megalitres of water a year for any purpose.
	Outdoor watering Gardens may only be watered: - Using watering cans and buckets (at any time). - Using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or drip-watering system for a maximum of 3 hours per week in accordance with the following: : - even and no-numbered properties on Saturday between either 6am-9am or 5pm-8pm. - odd numbered properties on Sunday between either 6am-9am or 5pm-8pm. - Sprinkler systems must not be used.
	Pools and spas - New or existing residential pools or spas must not be filled. - Existing residential pools and spas may only be topped up using a bucket or watering can or in accordance with an approved permit.
	Cleaning hard surfaces Hard surfaces (including driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking and other paved areas) must not be hosed down, except where cleaning is required due to an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency.
	Vehicle and boat cleaning Cleaning may only occur where it is required for health and safety reasons, to address a safety hazard, remove corrosive substances or address another emergency. Cleaning must be limited to the windows, mirrors, lights and registration plates. This may only be done by using a bucket or watering can, or at a commercial car wash.
Level 4	Construction or renovation During construction or renovation, cleaning may only be undertaken using a high-pressure cleaning unit or, if such a unit is unavailable, a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or a bucket.
	Farm water use (including sheep, cattle, dryland cropping) - Metered water usage of more than 600KL in a year must be reduced by 30% in the following six-month period (using the long-term average calculation method). Notes on calculation: - Long-term average water use is calculated using actual meter readings (not estimates) over the five years 2019 to 2024 (preceding the implementation of the Response Plan). - This restriction applies to a single farming business or individual, and multiple meters and properties will be aggregated. - Application must be made to indicate changes in farm activity that may have impacted the water use calculation of the long-term average, and an alternate method agreed through a permit. - Exemption will be made if water use is required due to an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency, including biosecurity and stock health.



Securing Eyre Peninsula's sustainable water future

Full details about the current water security response plan level for customers on the Eyre Peninsula, actions for customers and rebates on offer are available at



sawater.com.au/EPwatersecurity



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**Government of
South Australia**