



16 September 2019

Water restrictions apply across the Lower Hunter

Level 1 water restrictions apply across the Lower Hunter from today, helping to conserve the region's precious drinking water supplies.

The severe drought affecting NSW has had a significant impact on our dam levels, prompting the introduction of water restrictions for the first time in 25 years.

Hunter Water's Acting CEO Graham Wood encouraged the community to follow the water restrictions and continue to Love Water.

"It's more important than ever that we all play our part and save water, particularly as we head into the warmer months.

"From today, Level 1 water restrictions apply across our entire region, meaning outdoor watering is only permitted before 10am and after 4pm and all hoses must have a trigger nozzle. The use of sprinklers is no longer allowed.

"We'll have six Community Water Officers monitoring compliance across the region. While we're confident our community will do the right thing, these officers will be working to educate people on what water restrictions mean and fines may apply to those who choose not to comply after a three month grace period.

"Our teams will be working one-on-one with large customers and commercial operators to prepare and implement Water Efficiency Management Plans to identify water savings and ensure the continuity of their operations.

"Hunter Water will also continue to prioritise leakage to reduce water losses across its water network. While we are making improvements, we will continue to invest in this area," said Mr Wood.

Hunter Water's Executive Drought Lead Darren Cleary said water restrictions played an important part in Hunter Water's drought response.

"The severity of this drought is being felt across much of our state, including in the Lower Hunter. The last time water restrictions were introduced was in December 1994.

"With the region's dams continuing to fall, water restrictions will help reduce demand on the water supply as we head into what's likely to be a very hot and dry summer. If the dry conditions persist, Level 2 water restrictions may be introduced by the end of the year.

"We know that water is critical to people's lives, which is why we are working closely with all of our customers, both residential and businesses, to help them be as water efficient as possible, and conserve our precious resource," said Mr Cleary.

For more information on water restrictions, visit www.hunterwater.com.au/restrictions