



# Permanent Water Conservation Measures

## Non-residential fact sheet

### Background

On 1 December 2009 the Queensland Water Commission (QWC) imposed Permanent Water Conservation Measures (PCWM) in Queensland.

These water conservation measures across South East Queensland (SEQ) will help to maintain water supplies in the future.

### What are Permanent Water Conservation Measures and what do they mean for non-residents?

- Water Efficiency Management Plans (WEMPs) apply.
- Water users of more than ten million litres a year must comply with their WEMP to achieve 25% savings or best practice water use.
- Water users of more than one million litres a year must have water efficient appliances or comply with guidelines.

### A quick snapshot that identifies what businesses have to do

Water use	Submit and comply with a Water Efficient Management Plan	Retrofit fittings and equipment	Comply with guidelines
Premises using 10 megalitres or more	✓	✓	✓
Premises using between 1 megalitre and 10 megalitre per year	x	✓	✓
Small business and commercial	x	✓	✓
Operators using less than 1 megalitre per year	x	x	✓
Premises irrigating an area more than 500m <sup>2</sup>	✓ For irrigation only	x	✓

## General cleaning

- Cleaning buildings, materials and equipment must be undertaken efficiently using a bucket, hand held trigger nozzle hose or a high pressure cleaner.
- Town water can not be used to clean paved surfaces, except where it is significantly dirty, or poses a risk to health, safety or the environment.
- Mobile operators cannot use town water to clean external surfaces of a building or paved surfaces unless it is in accordance with the relevant QWC guideline.

## Irrigation and watering

- Town water cannot be used to irrigate areas larger than 500 square meters unless:
  - the water used is in accordance with an existing or pending Water Efficiency Management Plan (WEMP) or irrigation WEMP
  - a sub-meter is installed by a licensed plumber on the supply line for the efficient irrigation system
- More information is also available in the QWC's Efficient Irrigation Guideline.

## Pools and spas

- Town water can be used to fill a new or renovated swimming pool.
- To use town water to top up or fill existing swimming pools and spas you must install:
  - a rainwater tank or downpipe diverter
  - water efficient taps and showerheads in public amenities
  - a 'clear view screen' on the backwash outlet line
  - a sub-meter (by a licensed plumber) on the pool or spa make-up supply line
- You must also:
  - keep a weekly written log to track water use – any increase will help you identify leaks
  - use all available rainwater or diverted water to top up the pool before using town water
  - repair leaks promptly

## Public swimming pools

- Town water cannot be used to top up or fill public swimming pools that do not recirculate water.
- If the pool does recirculate water, town water can only be used to top up or fill pools in accordance with an approved WEMP.

## Water play facilities

- Town water cannot be used to top up or fill if the facility does not recirculate water.
- Written approval from Allconnex Water is required to use town water to top up or fill a facility that does not recirculate water.

## Outdoor showers

- From 1 June 2010 town water cannot be used for outdoor showers except water efficient showers or showers with an automatic cut off.
- These restrictions do not apply to safety showers.

## Motor vehicle dealerships

Town water cannot be used to wash vehicles unless it is accordance with the relevant efficiency guidelines.

## **Car, boat and caravan washing**

- Washing of rental and chauffeured vehicles, and washing by mobile operators must be in accordance with the relevant efficiency guidelines. .
- Commercial washing locations can only use town water if:
  - the washing is in accordance with the relevant efficiency guidelines
  - a sub-meter is installed
  - meter readings are taken weekly and the number of cars washed and amount of water used is logged
  - commercial operators are urged to contact the QWC or Allconnex Water for further clarification

## **Animal husbandry**

- A rainwater storage facility must be installed and supply exhausted before town water can be used for animal husbandry purposes.
- Town water can only be used to clean animal pens and enclosures if a high pressure water cleaning unit is used.

## **Building, construction and development**

- A hand held hose, bucket or a high pressure water cleaning unit can be used on construction sites.
- Construction sites must be attended at all times while water is being used.
- Town water cannot be used for land development, landscaping, slope stabilisation, dust suppression or erosion control.
- Town water is not permitted in activities associated with road and pavement construction, compaction of fill and dust suppression.

## **Active playing surfaces (sport, recreation and child care)**

- Town water cannot be used to water active playing surfaces.
- Any watering, using town water, must comply with the Active Playing Surface Guidelines.

## **Nurseries, turf farms and market gardens**

- Commercial providers above can only use town water to water stock and production areas if it is in accordance with a WEMP, which has either been approved or is pending approval.

## **Efficient water use in buildings**

- If more than one mega litre is used each year, town water cannot be used for bathrooms, laundries, ablution or kitchen fittings except if :
  - water efficient taps, showerheads and trigger sprays are in place and water used is in accordance with an approved WEMP
  - specialist equipment which needs a higher flow or pressure and cannot have water efficient fittings, can be used but must be maintained

## **Rainwater tanks**

- Rainwater tanks must not be filled or topped up with town water or from a water tanker which has been filled using the town water supply. Exceptions apply where the tank is the only source of water supply.

## Parks and Reserves

- Town water cannot be used to water road reserves, Local, State and Commonwealth reserves and parks.

## Fountains, ponds, fish/frog ponds or outdoor aquariums

- Town water can only be used to top up or fill the above if the water is recirculated or uses a maximum of 200 litres per week.

## Lakes, dams and other water storage facilities

- Town water cannot be used to top up or fill lakes, dams and other water storage facilities - except where town water used for washing or cleaning, which is then collected in detention ponds.

## Traveller accommodation

- Town water cannot be used unless information about water conservation is clearly displayed in every bathroom and every shared bathing facility or ablution block.

## Water saving tips - saving water in your business

Conserving water in your business has many key benefits, financially, environmentally and socially. Overall, it assists the business's triple bottom line. It also helps to sustain our future water supplies in a rapidly growing region. This is critical to maintaining our sustainable lifestyle, economy and unique environment.

By implementing these simple initiatives, your business will save water and money.

- Appoint a staff member to manage water conservation.
- Display water conservation messages in the workplace.
- Share water saving objectives and results with staff.
- Place a suggestions box in a common area and encourage staff to submit their water saving ideas.
- Establish a system to report and record leaks.
- Repair all leaks and dripping taps quickly.
- Install dual flush toilets, water efficient urinals and flow controlled aerators on taps.

## High water users – business

- Businesses using 10 ML/year or greater cannot use town water unless the water is used in accordance with a Water Efficiency Management Plan (WEMP) that has been submitted to Allconnex Water, is existing or if the business is in the process of developing a WEMP.

**For further information visit <http://www.qwc.qld.gov.au> or 1300 789 906**