5.7 Water Update - Calendar Year in Review

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Demand Management

Daily Water Consumption 17 October 2019 - 14 January 2021



Water Demand Management throughout the past 12 months has seen a relaxation of restrictions from Level 5 through to Level 2, with the corresponding increase in storage levels. Council's 2013 IWCM (Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy) recognised that permanent water conservation measures were to be the business as usual case for Orange and past Councils have achieved this by staying on Level 2 restrictions as a minimum. In October 2020 we adopted a new water restriction framework that <u>introduced 'Permanent Water Savings Standards</u>" rather than restrictions for when the combined water storage levels do not warrant restrictions. This is in line with contemporary water management in Australia and our IWCM Strategy. We also took the opportunity to adjust the target demands under each restriction to recognise the extraordinary effort from our residents in managing residential water demand down to as low as 115 litres per person per day.

This result was only achievable through a combined partnership with industry, community and a number of Demand Management projects, that were developed from across Council as a whole rather than just the Water Division, which all assisted water demand management in Orange City Council:

- bore water used by Council's Parks and Gardens teams;
- alternate construction water supplies were also sourced from bores;
- public fountains and watering of large turfed areas were stopped during the periods of extreme low supply;
- numerous residential and commercial water audits completed with corresponding water saving action plans; and
- education programs across community forums, television, radio, print, social media and electronic messaging signs.