



Singleton and the surrounding region is currently experiencing continued dry weather and drought conditions and as a result **Level 1 Water Restrictions** are now in place.

Why are Restrictions needed?

When the Singleton region experiences an extended dry period and the long term forecast indicates a lower than normal prediction of rainfall, Council has a duty to follow the Drought Management and Emergency Response Plan. In accordance with that plan and current drought conditions it is necessary to implement restrictions to ensure long term water security.

What should I do now?

There are many ways you can prepare your garden and lawn to manage on less water. In an effort to conserve water in the garden consider these tips:

- Check you are only watering your garden beds and lawn, not your driveway or paths,
- Make sure taps and hose fittings are not leaking,
- Forgotten sprinklers and irrigation systems can water thousands of litres of water use a timer,
- Deep root watering (powerful jet of water into the roots) once per week instead of surface watering daily, and
- Choose the right plants, there are many water wise varieties available.

What is a hard surface?

Houses, walls, windows, driveways and paths etc. are all considered to be hard surfaces and in most cases are not considered to be

high in prioritising water for essential purposes. Level One restrictions ban this water use activity.

Can I use water to wash my windows?

You can wash your windows using a bucket and hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or high pressure water cleaning equipment. Consideration to the conditions and time of day should be given.

Is water allowed to go onto a hard surface from garden watering or washing?

This is discouraged but can't always be completely avoided. If a sprinkler was left unattended and water was flowing steadily from a surface into the stormwater drains or roadway then Council should be contacted.

A common sense approach is best, for example don't water during windy conditions, maximise watering benefits by watering later afternoon and consider the weather forecast before deciding to water. Monitor the use of water, even if sprinklers are attached to timers.

Can I wash my car, boat or caravan?

Privately owned cars, boats and caravans can be washed using a hand held hose with a trigger nozzle, but must be washed on a grassed surface. If washed on a driveway for example, it would be considered a hard surface and this water use activity is banned in Level One.

This includes the flushing of boat motors after use, however motors do not need to be flushed if being used daily.



Can I top up my existing swimming pool or outdoor spa?

Yes, by a hand held hose or a hose fixed to a timer. Do not leave the hose unattended with the end in the pool, this will prevent backflow from occurring and protect our water supply. There should always be an air gap between the end of the hose and the water in the pool

Can I fill a new swimming pool or outdoor spa?

Yes, refer to the above during Level One restrictions. Contact Council's Customer Service Centre for specific advice in other restriction levels, or visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au.

Are there standard watering times?

Watering times for garden and lawns, as well as the way in which you water are restricted for residential use.

Under Level One restrictions you can water lawns and gardens using hand held hose with a trigger nozzle or other device that can be shut off instantly and/or irrigation systems, sprinklers or soaker hoses within the restricted hours of:

- 6am to 10am and 4pm to 10pm daily in **winter** months, and
- 6pm to 9am daily in **summer** months.

Under Council's adopted permanent water wise rules, watering should not happen during the hours of 10:00am and 4:00pm daily.

Council recommends watering early morning and later afternoon to avoid water loss by evaporation in the hottest period of the day.

What are the summer and winter months?

Restriction levels for watering activities including gardens and lawns are subject to seasonal variations for summer and winter. For all restriction levels:

- **Summer** means the months of October, November, December, January, February, and March

- **Winter** means the months of April, May, June, July, August and September

I have a drip irrigation system, can I still use it and is it treated differently to a spray system?

Drip irrigation, spray watering systems and sprinklers can still be used if fixed to a timer.

Consider the water wise rules when watering and the conditions on the day, for example do not use on a windy day.

Can I water new lawns or turf?

Irrigation of new lawns or turf is permitted for one week after laying, after which Level One restrictions on watering lawn applies. If using a sprinkler, it must be fixed to a timer and consideration should be given to the conditions and time of the day.

Can I wash my dog outside?

You can still wash and rinse your pet using a bucket or hose fitted with a trigger nozzle. Consideration should be given to the conditions and washing your pet on a grassed area.

Are there any exemptions?

Exemptions available include construction, public health, safety and environmental issues. For example to prevent or in the event of an accident or health hazard, you can use a high pressure cleaner to remove an oil spill on a driveway, hose pavers around a swimming pool that have become slippery from salt build up and you can always use water to defend property from fire or test fire protection systems.

What can I do if I see someone breaching the water restrictions?

Contact Singleton Council Water and Sewer Group on 02 6578 7290 and provide the following information:

- Date and time of alleged breach,
- Property address, and
- Details of the breach.



A Council Officer will investigate any alleged breaches.

How long will water restrictions remain in place?

Water restrictions will be lifted when:

- The long term forecast for rain is considered positive,
- Council resolves to lift the current voluntary restrictions, and/or
- Any reductions in high security water allocations, the trigger point set out in Council's Drought management and Emergency Response Plan have been reinstated.

On approval to lift restrictions, ratepayers and the community will be advised via radio, print and social media.

What can I do to conserve water in and around my home?

Visit Council's website for [water wise rules and water saving tips](#) for information on conserving water in and around your home.

At what stage do Level One Water Restrictions apply?

Council's adopted [Drought Management and Emergency Response Plan \(2010\)](#) details the triggers points and resulting restriction. The trigger points are based on a reduction in Council's High Security Water Allocation and are determined by Water NSW. These are:

Restriction Level	Trigger Point
Level One (Low)	10% Reduction
Level Two (Moderate)	25% Reduction
Level Three (High)	40% Reduction
Level Four (Severe)	55% Reduction
Level Five (Extreme)	70% Reduction
Level Six (Critical)	85% Reduction

What happens if I don't comply with the restrictions?

Council Officers will be enforcing compliance with the water restrictions and additional support may be provided by private security companies.

Breach of water restrictions may result in fines in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* up to a maximum of \$2,200 for repeat offenders.

Who do I call if I see a leak by the road or in a park or reserve?

Call Council's Customer Service Centre on 02 6578 7290 as soon as you can to report the location. Alternatively a report can be made online by visiting www.singleton.nsw.gov.au.

Do water restrictions apply if I am using water from a rainwater tank?

If your property is connected to Council's water supply and you also have a rainwater tank installed, water restrictions still apply.

Most water tanks have been installed as a consequence of the NSW Government BASIX requirements and are generally connected to internal plumbing. These tanks will be mostly empty because of the extended dry conditions. As customers can top up rainwater tanks using the reticulated water supply (even when using a private water carter to fill tanks in non-reticulated areas) restrictions still apply.

Your efforts to help save our water is appreciated. Remember, water is a precious resource and should not be wasted.

Further information can be found by visiting Council's website www.singleton.nsw.gov.au or contacting Council's Water and Sewer Group or Customer Service Centre on 02 6578 7290.