

IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER RESTRICTIONS

The present severe drought and consequential very low levels of storage dams necessitates the urgent implementation of water restrictions by Langeberg Municipality.

A provincial state of disaster has already been declared in the Western Cape on 24 May 2017 and a local state of disaster was also declared in the area of jurisdiction of Langeberg Municipality on 20 June 2017.

Against this water crisis and based on the declared provincial state of disaster, the premier of the Western Cape issued directions dealing with restrictions on the use of potable water for domestic and industrial purposes, as contained in the Schedule as published in the Provincial Gazette dated Friday, 4 August 2017. The bulk of Langeberg Municipality's raw water supply is from the Greater Brandvlei Government Water Scheme (GBGWS) that is managed by the Central Breede River Water User Association (CBRWUA).

The most effective way to reduce water consumption in times of water shortages is to increase tariffs for excessive usage. Special water tariffs in respect of water restrictions have been included in the 2017/18 tariffs and will be implemented. Various other restrictive measures are also included in the Drought Management Policy and will be enforced through strict law enforcement.

Three levels of water restrictions are included in the Langeberg Municipality Drought Management Policy and which corresponds with the restrictive allocations applied by the Greater Brandvlei Government Water Scheme (GBGWS) and the availability of water from our other sources.

BASED ON THESE CRITERIA LEVEL 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IMPOSED AS FROM 15 OCTOBER 2017.

The targeted water consumption for level 2 water restrictions is 50% of normal consumption for residential and business use and 75% of normal consumption for industrial users. Water consumption of all users will be monitored monthly and stricter water restrictions will be imposed if the targeted consumption is not achieved.

The restrictive measures of Level 2 water restrictions are as follow:

- a) Suspension of all irrigation water ("leiwater") in McGregor and Robertson.
- b) No watering of gardens using municipal water
- c) A fine in terms of Section 75 A of the Systems Act, being a 100% penalty on tariffs for monthly consumption in excess of 15 kilolitre per month per household connection, including indigent households.
- d) No watering of sport fields, cricket pitches, golf course greens and/or bowling greens is permitted unless own source of water is used.
- e) No filling of swimming pools.

- f) No washing of vehicles with any hose will be permitted including commercial enterprises whose business it is to wash cars.
- g) Stricter policing and implementation of a complaint line and whistle blowers facility.
- h) Consultation with bulk consumers in the industrial and business sectors as identified through the billing system.
- i) Installation of flow restrictors to non-compliant consumers to water restrictions.
- j) Any person who contravenes these restrictions is guilty of an offence and is, upon conviction, liable to a fine as published in the annual tariffs list.

The 2017/18 water tariffs (VAT exclusive) for residential users are as indicated in the table below with the tariffs that will be applicable for the different levels of water restrictions:

Consumption per month (kl.)	Normal Tariffs	Level 1 Water Restrictions Tariffs	Level 2 Water Restrictions Tariffs	Level 3 Water Restrictions Tariffs
0 – 6	R 2.30	R 2.30	R 2.30	R 2.30
6 – 15	R 5.40	R 5.40	R 5.40	R 16.20
15 – 30	R 5.64	R 5.64	R 11.28	R 16.92
30 – 40	R 5.90	R 8.85	R 11.80	R 17.70
40 – 60	R 7.55	R 11.33	R 15.10	R 22.65
More than 60	R 7.88	R 11.82	R 15.76	R 23.64

Some tips on how to save water at home are as follow:

- Take shorter showers and turn off the shower while soaping up, then turn it back on to rinse.
- Make sure you put a full load into your washing machine and dishwasher before starting a wash cycle.
- Cut down the amount of water flushed down the toilet by placing a 2 litre plastic bottle full of water in the water tank (cistern) of your toilet. This could save you up to 7 300 litres of water each year.
- When washing dishes by hand, do not leave the water running to rinse dishes. And if you have a double basin, fill one with soapy water and one with clean water to rinse.
- Install a system to pump grey water (from the washing machine, basins, shower and bath) to the garden.

In the garden:

- Plant indigenous plants which can tolerate extreme heat and require little watering.
- Group plants with the same water needs together, so that you don't overwater plants with varying water needs.
- Put a covering layer around trees and plants. Covering will slow evaporation and will also discourage weeds from growing.
- The best times to water your garden is at sunrise and sunset. Watering between 10 am and p.m. (when the sun is brightest) is not allowed.

- Water your lawn long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly.
- Plant in the right season. For winter rain-fall areas, you will need to plant in autumn and early winter so the plants have a chance to develop their root systems before the dry sea-son. In summer rainfall areas, you can plant in spring and early summer.

In the industrial and commercial sector

- Define water requirements for your organisation, building or unit of production.
- Appoint a person to track water use and identify strengths to build on and weaknesses to rectify.
- Ensure that people are aware of how to report major water losses from leaking or damaged pipes and hoses.
- Encourage staff to report dripping taps and leaking toilets.
- Reduce the chances of leakage by turning taps off lightly and getting washers replaced when leaks are discovered.

These simple changes can help you save up to 10% on your annual water bill, without drastically changing your lifestyle. Educate your children about simple ways to save water around the home and encourage your colleagues to start saving water at work.