

Stage 2 Water Restrictions Activated For Korumburra, Poowong, Loch and Nyora

From midnight on Thursday 24 March 2016, Stage 2 “SAVE” Water Restrictions will apply to South Gippsland Water’s customers of Coalition Creek Water Supply System (Korumburra) and the Little Bass Water Supply System (Poowong, Loch and Nyora), under uniform State Model Water Restriction By-laws.

Spring rainfall in 2015 has been confirmed as the region’s lowest on record since the late 1930s. Continuing dry weather conditions throughout summer, together with a resultant increase in demand for water, has lessened reservoir inflows even when rain has fallen.

Reservoir levels for the Coalition Creek Water Supply System and the Little Bass Water Supply System as at 11 March 2016 are at 54% and 45% respectively

Flow in the Tarwin River has dropped below 20 ML/day and, under the current bulk entitlement agreement, the extraction of water from the river to supplement Korumburra’s water supply ceased on Friday 4 March. Extraction started again on 15th March 2016, when flows increased, however, it is expected that the ability to take water will be a day to day proposition.

These low storage levels and forecasts for continuing dry weather conditions has led to Stage 2 “SAVE” Water Restrictions being activated. South Gippsland Water warns that if current weather and water usage patterns continue, Stage 3 Water Restrictions can be expected to be activated for Korumburra, Poowong, Loch and Nyora in the near future.

South Gippsland Water’s Managing Director, Philippe du Plessis said, “All customers in these townships are urged to elevate water conservation practices for households, businesses, community and recreational facilities.

“The Stage 2 “SAVE” measures are being put in place now as Korumburra, Poowong, Loch and Nyora need to conserve water supplies until such time that autumn/winter rains can replenish storages. The Corporation will closely monitor storage levels and will activate higher level restrictions as required.”

A key requirement of Stage 2 Water Restrictions is that commercial and household lawns can no longer be watered.

Watering systems can only be used to water gardens between 6am–8am and 6pm–8pm on alternate days*, however, a bucket, watering can or a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle can be used at any time.

Specific requirements apply to sporting grounds, and local community groups should contact South Gippsland Water for further information.

Customers are encouraged to visit the South Gippsland Water website www.sgwater.com.au or contact South Gippsland Water’s Customer Service Team on 1300 851 636 for further information regarding Stage 2 Water Restrictions.

*Alternate days means odd numbered houses can water on odd dates of the month and even numbered houses can water on even dates. Both odd and even numbered addresses can water on the 31st of the month. Where there is an address without a number, the property is considered an even number.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A quick snapshot of Stage 2 ‘SAVE’ Water Restrictions.

Gardens and Lawns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watering of lawns is BANNED • Watering systems can only be used to water <u>gardens</u> between 6am–8am and 6pm–8pm on alternate days*. • A bucket, watering can or a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle can be used at any time.
Sporting Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some sporting grounds can be watered at any time using a bucket, watering can or a hand held hose fitted with a trigger, including cricket wicket, running track, tennis court, lawn bowls and croquet green, and golf green and tea (but not fairways or approaches). • Watering systems can only be used on <u>alternate days</u>* between 6am-8am and 6pm-8pm. Particular sporting grounds can be watered as required, but only in accordance with an approved Water Use Plan. Contact South Gippsland Water for more information.
Paving, Concrete and Other Hard Surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosing is BANNED except for construction purposes, in an emergency, or to address a health or safety hazard.
Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles can be washed using a high pressure cleaning device, or if not available a bucket, watering can or a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle can be used at any time. • A water efficient commercial car wash can be used to wash vehicles.
Pools and Spas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To fill or top up a new or existing pool or spa with a capacity 2,000 litres or less, a bucket, watering can or a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle can be used between 6am-8am and 6pm-8pm. An automatic water top-up device can be used at any time. • Pools and spas of greater than 2,000 litres capacity must not be filled unless a Water Conservation Plan has been submitted to South Gippsland Water and approved.
* Alternate Days	<p>Alternate days means odd numbered houses can water on odd dates of the month and even numbered houses can water on even numbered dates. Both odd and even numbered houses can water on the 31st of the month. Where there is no house number the property is considered an even numbered house.</p>

Additional water restriction areas include: public gardens and lawns, ponds, lakes, fountains, water features, pools, spas, tanks, water tankers, commercial car washes, food transport vehicles, commercial production of plants and/or animals.

Exemptions may be applied for the watering of public sporting grounds.

Interested customers can download full details for the staged restrictions and definitions from the South Gippsland Water website www.sgwater.com.au or contact South Gippsland Water’s Customer Service Team on 1300 851 636.

During this dry time, South Gippsland water also encourages customers to consider simple water saving practices that can activate at home such as:

- Using a half flush when flushing the toilet
- Fixing any leaking or dripping taps
- Ensuring hoses are fitted with a trigger nozzle and free of leaks
- Only running washing machine and dish washers when there is a full load to be washed
- Limiting shower time to four minutes
- Planting water wise garden plants and using mulch to hold moisture in garden beds
- Installing a pool cover
- Installing a water saving shower head, customers can have one delivered for FREE, simply register with South Gippsland Water Customer Service on 1300 851 636.

South Gippsland Water will continue to monitor all water storages and will activate restrictions on water supply systems as needed.