

securing | our water future



Some of the Stage 4 changes are:

Gardens and lawns

All outside watering banned with the exception of grey water or water from a rainwater tank.

Vehicles

Only windows, mirrors and lights can be washed and rinsed by means of a bucket filled at the tap.

Swimming Pools

All previous exemptions are void.

Garden ponds

Must not be filled from empty. Top up with written permission of Coliban Water only.

Fountains

Fountains must not operate.

Sports grounds

Watering banned on all exempt and non-exempt playing surfaces.

Dams and tanks

Dams, tanks or like containers must not be filled or have their water added to or replaced unless the water is for in-house domestic, stock, firefighting purposes or with written permission of Coliban Water.

ALL EXISTING EXEMPTIONS WILL BE VOID FROM 1 SEPTEMBER.

Keeping you informed

We will be using local newspapers and various other media to keep you informed on the water situation and our plans and actions toward achieving water security. From time to time you will be sent something directly. We are also focussed on community education in terms of water saving.

Stage 1 Loddon system

Customers in the Loddon system will move from Permanent Water Saving Rules to Stage 1 water restrictions on September 1. This applies to residents in the towns and areas of Bealiba, Bridgewater, Dunolly, Inglewood, Jarklin, Laanecoorie, Serpentine and Tarnagulla. All customers will receive information by post.

No outside watering from September 1

For those who have been monitoring our water situation, it will come as no surprise that our region is moving to harsher restrictions as of September 1.

Stage 4 restrictions from this date will mean a ban on all outdoor watering.

This will apply to the Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton and Heathcote areas including all towns in these areas receiving water from the Coliban System. A full list of towns in the Coliban system is available from Coliban Water.

The change in water restriction level from Stage 4A to Stage 4 removes the general exemption which has until this time allowed limited outside watering.

Our region is now moving to a pure Stage 4 under Water Restriction By-Law No.9. A copy of the by-law can be found at www.coliban.com.au

Our region is not alone

Our region is not alone in its water shortage. Cities and towns throughout Australia, particularly in Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia and throughout our own state are feeling the effects of severe water restrictions as a result of ongoing dry conditions.

The water situation

Our combined storages (Upper Coliban, Malmsbury and Lauriston reservoirs, together with our 18% share of Lake Eppalock) is at 13.5% of total capacity. This compares to 22% this time last year.

These Stage 4 restrictions will be the harshest the region has faced.

We will remain on Stage 4 restrictions until our water situation improves either through the completion of water security projects or through inflows into our storages.

To the future

We are working on multiple projects to improve the region's water security. Our water security plan – Waterplan 2055 sets out our plans and actions and can be found on our website.

The four key action areas are:

- > urban savings
- > rural savings
- > greater use of recycled water
- > sourcing additional water

Some Gardening Tips

While you cannot water gardens or lawn, you can use rainwater or grey water. Refer to EPA guidelines www.epa.vic.gov.au

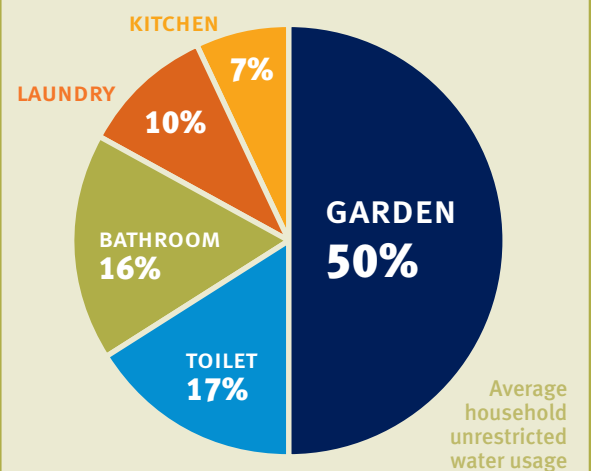
- > use water from a rainwater tank
- > spread mulch on garden beds and reduce water loss by up to 70%.
- > set up areas of shade cloth to protect your garden beds
- > use grey water from the shower or laundry to water plants you particularly want to keep
- > move aside mulch to check soil moisture before applying any rain water or grey water. Also make sure that the water applied soaks into the soil.



Our two key projects are a: recycled water pipeline from Bendigo Water Reclamation Plant at Epsom to Spring Gully Reservoir to use for irrigation purposes from April 2007; and a 45 kilometre pipeline to bring water from the Goulburn System which is targeted for completion in late 2007.

Projects also include improving efficiencies in the Coliban system and ongoing community education. It is essential that the community takes every opportunity possible to save water.

Save water in your home



Make a household plan to save water

- > Reduce your showering time
- > Use the sink to shave instead of the shower
- > Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth
- > Use the economy cycle on your dishwasher
- > Replace tap washers as soon as they leak
- > Fully load your washing machine

Rural allocation

Coliban system rural customers are facing the possibility of an initial zero allocation when the first announcement for the season is made on September 15. Storages and inflows will be monitored before any final decision is made. We are developing emergency measures to provide some water for rural households and commercial businesses should the allocation be zero.

Drought not new

Geoff Russell

In February 1865, at the start of a record two-year dry spell, 'fierce bushfires' raged across Central and Northern Victoria from Mount Macedon to Goornong, encircling the Bendigo Valley. The potato crop at Kyneton was destroyed, and the price of oats (destined to feed horses at Bendigo) had been 'greatly affected'; Castlemaine also endured 'almost ... the total paralysis of trade'.

Then on 27 February Sandhurst (Bendigo) suffered 'the hottest, the dustiest, the most miserable, and the most unbearable day... for many seasons previous.' By early-April, vegetables became so scarce on Bendigo that cabbages grown by Chinese gardeners fetched 1 shilling each instead of their normal 2 pence.

