



**Melinda Pavey**  
Minister for Water, Property & Housing

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday, 1 December, 2020

### **LEVEL 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS LIFTED AS SYDNEY'S BEST WATER SAVING SUBURBS REVEALED**

From December 1, 2020, Level 1 Water restrictions for Greater Sydney, the Blue Mountains and Illawarra will be lifted and replaced with Water Wise Guidelines.

Minister for Water Property and Housing, Melinda Pavey said Greater Sydney has done a great job saving water during one of the worst droughts on record.

“People across Greater Sydney have done an outstanding job during water restrictions, collectively saving 77 gigalitres of water – the equivalent of 31,000 Olympic-size swimming pools. Since March 2020 water use is down 7.5 per cent,” Mrs Pavey said.

“The new Water Wise Guidelines follow common-sense behaviours we have seen over the past 12 months. While we want everyone to enjoy water this summer, we need to remember to use it wisely.

“The heat wave over the weekend meant 3.7 gigalitres of water was consumed Friday and Saturday, the most consumed over two days for 2020, a timely reminder how quickly dam levels can change.”

Mrs Pavey said water restrictions have helped curtail demand by around 65ML per day, taking pressure off the filtration plant to provide clean water from Sydney's dams which have been impacted by bushfires and heavy rainfall.

“We've been through drought, bushfires and floods and we know things can change dramatically very quickly, ” Mrs Pavey said.

“While water restrictions will be lifted from midnight tomorrow night, we are encouraging people to continue to practice their good water behaviour habits along the guidelines of the Level 1 water restrictions.”

Under Water Wise Guidelines, tap water can be used to water lawns and gardens before 10am and after 4pm, if using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, standard watering systems or supervised sprinklers.

Exemption permits for households and businesses will no longer be required. For more information visit [here](#).

**Under the new Water Wise Guidelines, YOU CAN use drinking water to:**

- water lawns and gardens before 10am and after 4pm using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, standard watering systems, or SUPERVISED sprinklers
- water new turf and gardens at any time for up to 28 days
- water lawns and gardens with drip irrigation systems or 'smart water systems' at any time
- top up pools and spas to replace water lost through evaporation
- fill new or renovated pools and spas
- wash vehicles with a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or high-pressure cleaning equipment
- clean buildings (including windows, walls and gutters) with a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or high-pressure cleaning equipment
- cool down people or animals.

**Greater Sydney's top water saving suburbs revealed**

<b>Top Water Saving Suburb</b>	<b>Usage per day (Kilolitres)</b>
<b>Blackheath</b>	<b>0.33</b>
<b>Erskineville</b>	<b>0.38</b>
<b>Austral</b>	<b>0.40</b>
<b>Gerringong</b>	<b>0.41</b>
<b>Berowra Heights</b>	<b>0.46</b>
<b>Sutherland</b>	<b>0.47</b>