

Sportsground Fact Sheet

Guidelines for Sportsground Water Use Plans

- Organisations may water any irrigated sports facility
- Organisations must not exceed its water usage allocation issued by their water utility
- Organisations to submit monthly water usage to water utility
- Organisations may need to have a separate water meter for irrigation
- Organisations must complete a Water Use Plan application

This plan is valid for the prevailing stage of restrictions or Permanent Water Use Rules and organisations must pursue the agreed initiatives to reduce water consumption, moving to best practice. For example, install dual flush toilets, rainwater tank or alternate sources of water.

Your Water Use Plan application must provide sportsground information as follows:

- Number of grounds irrigated by mains water
- Number of grounds not irrigated by mains water at all
- Number of grounds irrigated by an alternate water supply (recycled, rainwater tank etc.)
- Number of other grounds e.g. synthetic turf
- Provide total m² of irrigated area (sportsgrounds only)
- Provide details regarding turf species for each irrigated sportsground
- Provide refurbishment plan for ovals requiring transition to optimum drought tolerant species
- Put in place a plan for installation of check water meters where required (no long term absence of metered volumes will be allowed)
- Demonstrate ability to adequately measure and preferably meter consumption
 - Implement permanent real time consumption monitoring within six months for monitoring by both the organisation and water utility
 - Implement permanent real time central control of irrigation systems within six months
- Initiate a complete audit of the efficiency of irrigation systems within six months.
(Note: not required if an audit has been completed within last six months)
- Monitor and report water consumption monthly
- Report on progress of all other initiatives, including turf refurbishment plan quarterly
- Develop a community communications plan
 - Publish watering plan on-line – needs to be comprehensive i.e. where, what day, hours water required
 - Display signage; engage in public communications, etc.
- Demonstrate associated indoor savings for facilities attached to sportsgrounds within six months

Approval may be revoked by your water utility at any time in writing and no longer applies when a higher stage of restrictions is imposed.

Application forms should be addressed to your relevant water utility's address (see below).

Frequently Asked Questions

Water Use Plan Application Process

Q: What can the sportsground water allocation be used for?

A: Your water allocation can be used to irrigate sportsgrounds only.

Q: Is the use of a watering allocation optional?

A: Yes, the allocation scheme is an option for organisations, with the alternative being to water according to the prevailing stage of restriction or Permanent Water Use Rules.

Q: What happens if my organisation exceeds its water usage allocation?

A: We do not anticipate that you will exceed your allocation, yet where it is apparent that the rules are being flouted, we may revoke your Water Use Plan.

Q: How long will approval of the plan last?

A: The approval will be valid for the current financial year unless the prevailing stage of restriction changes.

Q: Are there any requirements placed on organisations?

A: Yes, Councils will be required to submit a plan that demonstrates that it meets the specific requirements of the allocation framework.

Q: Are schools and private sportsground operators allowed to participate?

A: Yes, provided the relevant criteria are met.

Q: How long will it take to process my application form once it has been submitted?

A: Your water utility will endeavour to process your application as soon as possible.

Q: My ground doesn't have a water meter – can we participate?

A: Yes, but you may have to install a water meter to separately meter the ground's irrigation at your own expense. Your water utility will assess and advise you when they respond to your application.

Q: Can the organisation carry over any unused water allocation to the next allocation period?

A: No, all water allocated can only be used within the allocation period.



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