

LEVEL 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS FOR COMING FOR WALCHA

Walcha residents will enjoy Level 1 Water Restrictions from Monday, 30 March 2020. Walcha storage levels are nearing capacity, and we continue to enjoy good flows in the Macdonald River.

The revised daily usage target will increase from 150 litres to 250 litres per person per day. Residents will be able to water their gardens before 10am and after 4pm, wash vehicles and hard surfaces using a hose with trigger nozzles or high pressure cleaning equipment, and can use sprinklers for up to 2 hours per day. Council encourages all residents to keep up the good work and continue to be conservative with their water use. Residents can visit the Council Facebook page or website for tips on how to read your meter and know what you use.

Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes says, *"I would like to personally thank the Walcha community for our reduced water usage levels over the past years, and especially since we went to Level 5 Restrictions last November. Since we have been publishing the water tracker, we have consistently been meeting or bettering our targets. It is a great result for Walcha and shows that we all know how to reduce our usage when needed."*

Council will continue to publish a Water Tracker so that all of our community can continue to see exactly how much water we are using and keep track of our storage levels. The tracker is a real time measure of how we are using our water and a transparent way to ensure we remain below our target use, not matter the restriction level. The Walcha Water Tracker reporting frequency will change from weekly to fortnightly as we commence level 1 restrictions.

"We all know that water is our most precious resource, and I look forward to seeing us continue to treat it this way, even with the reduced restrictions," says Mayor Eric Noakes.

Last month, Council resolved to award the design consultancy package for our new off-stream storage to Hunter h2O. This engagement is currently due for completion early 2021. Council is currently assessing any potential impact from the emerging COVID-19 situation on this design program, and will provide the community more details on the project in the weeks ahead.

Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes says, *"The design of our new off-stream storage structure remains a top priority. We look forward to sharing more project details with you soon, and are committed to delivering this project successfully for the future water security of Walcha."*

Please contact Council if you have any questions relating to the new Level 1 Water Restrictions.

For interviews, please call Mayor Eric Noakes on 0428 774 504.

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