

Summary of Proposed Variations to the Permanent Water Saving Plan for Westernport Water

Main Body of the Permanent Water Saving Plan (PWSP)		
Clause in Current PWSP	Clause in Varied PWSP	Summary of Proposed Variation
N/A	Preamble	A preamble has been included to clarify that the PWSP sets out five common-sense rules to encourage the efficient use of water and to avoid wasting water, but that water corporations will continue to work with their communities to support individual efforts to use water more efficiently. There is no such preamble in the current PWSP.
Sub-Clause 3.1 – Definitions	Sub-Clause 3.1 – Definitions	Definitions have been updated to ensure there is consistency in common terms that are used in both the PWSP and legislative instruments that give effect to water restrictions. In particular, a new definition of “permanent water saving rule” has been added to clarify that this means a restriction or prohibition on the use of water set out in Schedule 1 of the PWSP. A new definition of “Water” has also been added to clarify that permanent water saving rules under the PWSP apply to any water that is supplied by the main water supply works of a water corporation.
Clause 4 – Application Clause 7 – Restrictions and Prohibitions	Clause 4 – Application and General Principles	A new sub-clause 4.2 has been included to clarify that permanent water saving rules under the PWSP apply to any water that is supplied by the main water supply works of a water corporation, but do not apply to recycled or reclaimed water, greywater, stormwater or rainwater collected in a tank – consistent with the definitions set out in sub-clause 3.1.
Sub-Clause 5.1 – General Exemptions	Clause 5 – General Exemptions	A new sub-clause 5.1 has been included to clarify that, despite any provision of the PWSP, water can be used at any time for human health requirements, stock and animal health requirements, fire fighting or the safety of, but not the cleaning of, vehicles or equipment. New paragraphs (c) to (e) in sub-clause 5.2 have been included to clarify the requirements for publishing information about general exemptions.
Sub-Clause 5.2 – Applications for Particular Exemptions Sub-Clause 5.3 – Rules about Particular Exemptions	Clause 6 – Particular Exemptions	A new sub-clause 6.1 has been included to provide the ability for water corporations to issue guidelines about applying for particular exemptions. A new sub-clause 6.4 has been included to provide a streamlined process for the establishment of warm season grasses, where an exemption from the permanent water saving rules under the PWSP is deemed to have been approved unless and until notified otherwise.
N/A	Clause 7 – Water Use Plans	A new clause 7 has been included to provide the ability for public gardens or lawn areas, or playing surfaces, to be watered in accordance with a Water Use Plan that has been approved by a water corporation. This provides flexibility for local councils and sporting clubs to water their facilities when most appropriate, despite the permanent water saving rules under the PWSP, but still requires that water is used efficiently for such watering.
Schedule 1 – Permanent Water Saving Rules		
Proposed New Rule in Varied PWSP		Summary of Proposed Variation
1. Hand-Held Hoses	Hand-Held Hoses should always be fitted with a trigger nozzle and be leak-free.	<p>The proposed new rule maintains that hand-held hoses must not be used for any purpose unless they are fitted with a trigger nozzle, are in good condition and do not have any significant leaks.</p> <p>The current rule only requires hand-held hoses to have a trigger nozzle in certain circumstances, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watering residential or commercial gardens or lawns, public gardens or lawns,

		<p>sportsgrounds or recreational areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washing vehicles; • Cleaning paved areas; • In construction, and only then must the hose be in good condition and leak free.
2. Residential and Commercial Gardens and Lawns	Residential or Commercial Gardens and Lawns can be watered with a hand-held hose, bucket or watering can at any time but can only be watered by means of a watering system between the hours of 6pm and 10am on any day.	<p>The proposed new rule maintains the ability to water gardens and lawns with a hand-held hose, watering can or bucket at any time but simplifies the use of all watering systems to a single time period whilst ensuring that watering systems cannot be used during the heat of the day.</p> <p>The current rule has different rules and times for automatic and manual systems, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic – can only be used between the hours of 6pm and 10am on any day • Manual – can only be used between the hours of 6pm and 10am on any day <p>The current rule also requires automatic systems to be fitted with a rain sensor, soil moisture sensor, evapotranspiration device, weather station or equivalent device.</p>
3. Public Gardens and Playing Surfaces	Public Gardens and Lawns and Playing Surfaces can be watered with a hand-held hose, bucket or watering can at any time but can only be watered by means of a watering system fitted with a rain or soil moisture sensor between the hours of 6pm and 10am on any day.	<p>The proposed new rule maintains the ability to water a public garden, lawn or playing surface with a hand-held hose, watering can or bucket at any time but simplifies the use of all watering systems to a single time period and requires that these systems are fitted with a soil or rain moisture sensor. This ensures watering systems are not used during the heat of the day and are only used when the plants or lawns need it.</p> <p>The current rule has different rules and times for automatic and manual systems, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic – can only be used between the hours of 6pm and 10am on any day • Manual – can only be used between the hours of 6pm and 10am on any day <p>The current rule also requires automatic systems to be fitted with a rain sensor, soil moisture sensor, evapotranspiration device, weather station or equivalent device.</p> <p>The proposed new rule also provides the ability for public gardens or lawn areas, or playing surfaces, to be watered in accordance with an approved Water Use Plan.</p>
4. Fountains and Water Features	Fountain or Water Features should only be used if the fountain or water feature recirculates the water.	<p>It is proposed to maintain the current rule whereby fountains and water features are required to re-circulate water when in use.</p>
5. Cleaning of Hard Surfaces	Water should not be used to clean hard surfaces (including, driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking) except: (i) where cleaning is required as a result of an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency; (ii) if staining to the surface has developed and then only once a season; or(iii) in the course of construction or renovation.	<p>It is proposed to maintain the current rule whereby water cannot be used to clean hard surfaces (including, driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking) unless required for the specified reasons.</p>

Other Rules

It is proposed to not continue the following current rules:

- *Non-residential WaterMAPs*: The existing requirement for WaterMAPs to be developed by all non-residential customers (10 ML/year or greater) has been removed. The Government has implemented a voluntary program for all non-residential customers (5 ML/year or greater). As it is a voluntary program it does not need to be documented as part of a PWSP. This builds on the strong cooperative and collaborative relationships between water corporations and their large water users, rather than focusing on mandatory programs.
- *No restriction applies to the watering of Wholesale, Retail and Municipal Garden Nurseries*: Given that the proposed new rules 2 and 3 apply only to Residential and Commercial Gardens and Lawns, and Public Gardens and Lawns and Playing Surfaces, this rule is now considered redundant, i.e. Nurseries can be watered at any time with any method – although hand-held hoses must be fitted with a trigger nozzle and be leak free consistent with proposed new rule 1.
- *A vehicle can be cleaned at any time using water from a bucket but cannot be cleaned using a hand-held hose unless it is fitted with a trigger nozzle*: Given that the proposed new rule 1 clarifies that all hand-held hoses must be fitted with a trigger nozzle when in use, this rule is now considered redundant.
- *Construction industry cannot use a hose unless it is fitted with a trigger nozzle and does not leak*: Given that the proposed new rule 1 clarifies that all hand-held hoses must be fitted with a trigger nozzle and be leak free when in use, this rule is now considered redundant.
- *Permit required to fill a pool of 2000 L or greater for the first time*: Feedback from water corporations indicated this rule provided little benefit in terms of water savings or communication and education, and represented a considerable administrative burden.