

Irrigated Public Open Space Principles

Outdoor irrigation guidelines for Schools, Sporting Clubs and other Organisations for season 2013/2014 (Councils and Developers refer to Council and Developers Principles)

Water Wise Measures continue to remain in place throughout South Australia. The Measures form a baseline level of water use in recognition that water will always be a valuable resource that should never be taken for granted or squandered.

What does this mean for your organisation?

All sites with total turf areas greater than 5000m² using SA Water drinking water for irrigation purposes are required to obtain an Irrigated Public Open Space (IPOS) permit from SA Water under the IPOS Program.

Management of open spaces must be in accordance with best practice guidelines such as outlined in the IPOS Code of Practice.

SA Water is committed to assisting open space staff implement best practice irrigation management of open space areas. It is important to recognise the social, environmental and economic benefits of managing open spaces to industry best practice standards. Valuable information including information sheets, case studies and toolkits can be sourced from [our website](#).

Many open space managers have increased irrigation efficiency by:

- Education and training
- Turf and irrigation maintenance management policies
- Effective management of water efficient irrigation systems
- Effective irrigation scheduling regimes
 - No watering during the heat of the day or during effective rain events
 - Reducing irrigation during the shoulders of the season
 - Installing dedicated meters, central control systems, site specific weather stations, other tools and reporting models for monitoring, managing and recording water usage – knowing what is actually going on your turf areas
- Effective horticultural maintenance programs
- Planting drought tolerant species
- Use of 'fit for purpose' water sources such as recycled water for irrigation
- Browning off low functional sites and implementing dry landscape treatments

SA Water permit process for season 13/14

Due to the feedback we received from our customers, this season we haven't asked you to reapply for your IPOS permit. Instead, we have forwarded your permit out electronically and based the permit on the site details you provided to us last season. Hopefully this makes the process easier for you and saves you time.

Please review your permit. If there have been any changes that affect your permit, please contact us to make the required changes to your permit. If you require clarification or seek further information please contact the Business Sustainability Group on 08 7424 3753.

The turf and irrigation management of the site remains the responsibility of the permit holder.

Organisations who have not registered their sites that are using drinking water for irrigation purposes will be required to submit an IPOS application form detailing site specifics to SA Water for approval.

Monitoring and recording irrigation water usage

Monitoring your water use by reading water meters and recording the usage is an essential part of best practice irrigation and the information is useful for:

- Policy and budget planning
- Calculating turf requirements
- Scheduling irrigation systems
- Identifying how much water is actually being used for irrigation purposes
- Identifying possible water leaks

Reporting water use to SA Water

It is a condition of the permit that actual water used for irrigation purposes is monitored and reported to SA Water.

Individual reporting requirements will be detailed on the IPOS permit/s.

IPOS – Irrigation Management Toolkit

SA Water has developed a Microsoft Excel based toolkit. The toolkit has been developed to assist staff and grounds personnel to self calculate irrigation requirements and manage water use efficiently for individual site/s. The simple calculator determines site specific turf irrigation requirements based on the information entered. It also includes recording and reporting water use sheets for the user to track total water consumption and report to SA Water via the reporting template.

IPOS Guidelines

The table on the following page outlines a framework for irrigation. Irrigation systems should be audited for their efficiency regularly and scheduling should be in line with irrigation requirements. Definitions are provided on page 4.

Irrigation Guidelines	Principle
<p>Trees and/or gardens</p>	<p>Existing trees and feature landscapes which may also include trees, flower beds, ornamental gardens and other planted sites may be irrigated via sprinkler irrigation which can take place on any day after 8pm of an evening and before 8am the following morning. Hand-held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle and drip irrigation systems may be used at anytime.</p> <p>SA Water encourages landscapes requiring only establishment watering and then minimal supplementary irrigation during extended hot periods if required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated drip irrigation that supplies water directly to the plant rather than blanket drip is encouraged.
<p>New trees and/or gardens</p>	<p>New trees and or feature landscapes which may include trees, flower beds, ornamental gardens, and other planted sites may be irrigated via sprinkler irrigation which can take place on any day after 8pm of an evening and before 8am the following morning. Hand-held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle and drip irrigation systems may be used at anytime.</p> <p>When planning a new landscape, SA Water encourages design landscapes suited to the local environment requiring minimal supplementary irrigation and to practice efficient irrigation scheduling when necessary.</p> <p>Irrigation systems should be designed to provide plants with their individual water requirements.</p>
<p>Turf areas detailed on individual IPOS permits TQVS 1-4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sprinkler irrigation can take place on any day after 8pm of an evening and before 8am the following morning. Irrigation consumption should be in line with actual irrigation requirement. Hand-held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle and drip irrigation systems may be used at anytime.
<p>Fertilising, weed control and system testing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under an IPOS permit fertilisers or pesticides can be watered in during the daytime for 10 minutes per station and testing of irrigation systems is permitted during the day for 5 minutes per station. On the day of fertilising, treatment or system testing, you must contact the SA Water's direct line (08 7424 3753) to advise us fertilising, treatment or system testing is taking place.
<p>Permits for establishment of new or renovated turf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If planting or sowing new turf or if you are rejuvenating established areas and need to water outside of the 8pm to 8am time frames a new turf application form will need to be submitted to SA Water for approval.
<p>Permits for all other drinking water use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If outside of the current Water Wise Measures the relevant permit application form must be submitted to SA Water for approval.

Definitions

TQVS (Turf Quality Visual Standard): A visual indicator of turf quality based on the functional objective and fit for purpose requirement of the turf grass surface. There are four levels from TQVS 1 through to TQVS 4.

BIR (Base Irrigation Requirement): The base volume of water to be used as a guide in planning irrigation requirements for the forthcoming irrigation season. The BIR is calculated using long term average climate data.

AIR (Actual Irrigation Requirement): The amount of water to be applied by irrigation to a given area of turf to produce the desired quality outcome using the current 'actual' climate data.

Useful contacts and links

- Irrigation Australia Limited - www.irrigation.org.au
- Turf Grass Association of South Australia Inc- www.tgaa-sa.com
- Local Government Association - www.lga.sa.gov.au
- Nursery & Gardens Industry South Australia - www.ngisa.com.au
- Bureau of Meteorology - <http://www.bom.gov.au/watl/eto/>
- SmartApproved WaterMark - <http://www.smartwatermark.info/home/default.asp>

Are you receiving the IPOS e-Bulletin?

Yes - Provide us with your feedback or tips and tricks and we can include them in the bulletin.

No - To join our mailing list contact the Business Sustainability Group.

- Irrigated Public Open Space - http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/WWM/WWM_IPOS.htm
- Business Sustainability Group - <http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/YourBusiness/SaveWaterInYourBusiness>