

Irrigated Public Open Space Principles

Outdoor irrigation guidelines for open space managers

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?

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

Previous allocations imposed under higher level restrictions are no longer applicable.

Management of open spaces must be in accordance with best practice guidelines such as outlined in the IPOS Code of Practice. Permit holders are responsible for determining the level of actual irrigation requirements that best suits each site, taking into account the amount of use and type of use on each site.

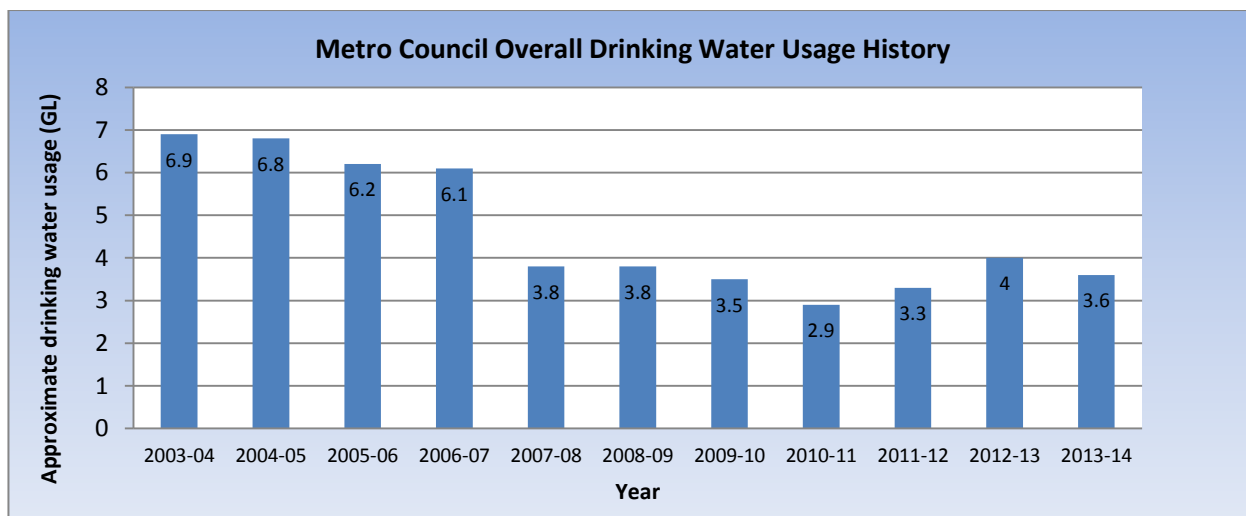
SA Water is committed in continuing to help customers improve their water efficiency when they request it. Valuable information is provided on our website. We encourage you to utilise our services. If you would like to discuss irrigation efficiency with a Technical Support Consultant please contact us on 08 7424 3753.

Many open space managers have increased irrigation efficiency by:

- Education and training of groundstaff
- Implementing turf and irrigation maintenance policies for their organisation
- Effective management of water efficient irrigation systems
- Effective irrigation scheduling regimes
 - Not 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

History of drinking water usage under Water Restrictions and Water Wise Measures

The following graph indicates approximate drinking water usage for 16 major South Australian metropolitan councils over the past eight years. This figure is an approximate overall figure and includes internal and external use.



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 being used for irrigation purposes
- Identifying possible water leaks

Irrigation Monitoring Toolkits

Excel based water monitoring toolkits have been developed for permit holders and are available from the IPOS webpage. The Advanced Irrigation Management Toolkit is useful for councils managing multiple sites and the Basic Irrigation Management Toolkit is useful to assist schools and sporting clubs monitor their water use. Links to these toolkits are provided below:

[Advanced Irrigation Management Toolkit](#)

[Basic Irrigation Management Toolkit](#)

IPOS Guidelines

The following table outlines a framework for irrigation for IPOS permit holders. Irrigation systems should be audited for their efficiency periodically and scheduling should be in line with irrigation requirements. Definitions are provided below the table.

Irrigation Guidelines	Principle
<p>Trees and/or community gardens</p>	<p>Existing trees and feature landscapes managed by local or state governments, or commercial organisations, 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>Dry landscapes requiring only establishment watering and then minimal supplementary irrigation during extended hot periods can be implemented to improve water efficiency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated drip irrigation that supplies water directly to the plants rather than blanket drip is encouraged.
<p>New trees and/or community 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design landscapes suited to the local environment requiring minimal supplementary irrigation and to practice efficient irrigation scheduling when necessary. • Irrigation systems should be designed to provide plants with their individual water requirements.
<p>Turf parks and sports grounds TQVS 1-4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under an IPOS permit, 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 requirements. 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.
<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.

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 Technical Support.

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