

Subject: 2B Water Restrictions amended due to shorter winter daylight hours

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2B Water Restrictions amended due to shorter winter daylight hours

George Municipality today at the Executive Mayoral-In-Committee meeting of 19th July 2018, amended the current 2B Water Restrictions for the George Municipal area to allow for the watering of gardens by handheld hosepipe between 15h00 – 17h00 due to the shorter winter daylight hours. Even numbered households may water their gardens on Mondays and Thursdays, and uneven numbered households on Tuesdays and Fridays. Watering cans may be used at any time,

The Garden Route Dam level measured today on 19th July is at 79,8% with 6mm of rain recorded for the week. The water demand remains high at 27.99 megalitres per day. The Western Cape remains a declared disaster drought area despite recent rainfall and all municipalities in the province must comply to its stipulations, most significantly that all municipalities should aim to reduce 40% of its overall consumption irrespective of their individual water status. For George that means a target of 22 megalitres per day, which is much higher than the average number of kilolitres per day the city's people have been using since restrictions were introduced in June 2017.

“We ask that residents not become complacent. The annual average rainfall in George for 2016 and 2017 was below the expected average (727 mm per year) with rainfall of 626 mm recorded in 2016 and 671 mm recorded in 2017 and the Garden Route Dam is showing a steady decline of between 1,5 and 2% decrease per week with the coming months historically reflecting the lowest dam levels,” said Mr Botha.

Despite the Western Cape being blessed with long awaited rain, Cape Town and other towns in the Western Cape remain under stringent water restrictions. Here are the 2B Water Restrictions applicable to George as a reminder.

THE FOLLOWING SECTION 2B WATER RESTRICTIONS CURRENTLY APPLY IN GEORGE AND SURROUNDS:

- Handheld watering of gardens using a hose and municipal water: even-numbered households Mondays and Thursdays, 3pm – 5pm AND uneven-numbered households Tuesdays and Fridays, 3pm-5pm.
- Mechanical irrigation of gardens (sprayers) using municipal water is prohibited.
- Watering sports fields using municipal water is prohibited, except for golf course greens, bowling greens and cricket pitches, daily 3pm-5pm.
- Filling up of swimming pools using municipal water is prohibited.
- Washing cars with a hose using municipal water is prohibited (buckets allowed), except for commercial car washes.

- Cleaning of outside surfaces using a hosepipe with municipal water is prohibited (buckets allowed).
- “OWN WATER” signage must be displayed where applicable and must be proven on request by municipal officials.

Applications for exemption of some restrictions may be considered on merit and the application forms can be obtained from the Department of Civil Engineering Services.

Report water leaks and burst pipes to 044 801 9262 or after hours at 044 801 6300, as soon as you notice them.

Report contraventions of water restrictions on 0800 424 277. Fines may apply.