

## 10.3 Lifting of Water Restrictions

REPORT BY THE MANAGER WATER AND SEWER  
TO 19 MAY 2021 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400088, F0780013

### RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager Water and Sewer on the Lifting of Water Restrictions;**
2. **remove the current level 2 water restrictions for the Gulgong and Mudgee townships; and**
3. **continue to implement communication and education initiatives in respect of water conservation in the Mid-Western Region.**

### Executive summary

Council introduced Level 1 water restrictions in August of 2019 in response to the drought. Further restrictions were introduced in November 2019 due to the decreasing water level of Windamere Dam and scheduled imminent bulk water release from Windamere Dam.

This report is recommending the lifting of water restrictions in Gulgong and Mudgee as the trigger for lifting of water restrictions have been met.

### Disclosure of Interest

Nil

### Detailed report

The townships of Gulgong and Mudgee are currently on Level 2 water restrictions. Given that the drought conditions have greatly improved due to the return of rainfall across the region this year, and in particular following significant rain events in March 2021, it is timely to revisit water restrictions for the townships of Gulgong and Mudgee.

The 'trigger' to remove/reduce water restrictions previously discussed with Council is based on two factors:

1. Windamere Dam level increase greater than that when restrictions commenced; and
2. Receiving confirmation from WaterNSW that Bulk Water Transfer has been postponed.

Below is a graph accessed from the WaterNSW website showing Windamere Dam percentage (%) full storage for the period July 2019 to 10 May 2021.



Timeline of introduction of Water Restrictions

- 1 August 2019 – commence Level 1 restrictions – Windamere Dam 32.1% full
- 11 November 2019 – commence Level 2 restrictions – Windamere Dam 29.9% full
- 10 May 2021 – latest storage % full advised by WaterNSW – Windamere Dam 33.7% full

Windamere dam levels have increased from 32.1% in August 2019 when level 1 water restrictions were first introduced to the current dam level of 33.7% on 10 May 2021. Although the current level is only marginally higher than in August 2019, the current dam level does satisfy trigger point 1 above.

WaterNSW has also advised via their latest Regional Water Availability Report for Macquarie and Cudgong Catchment that:

*“..Rainfall and inflows this year have delayed the second phase of the transfer from Windamere to Burrendong February 2022. The transfer will leave a minimum of 70 GL in Windamere Dam...”*

We therefore have confirmation of no bulk water transfers for the remainder of this year, thereby satisfying trigger point 2 above.

Based on the information provided above, this report recommends lifting of water restrictions for the Gulgong and Mudgee townships.

Of further interest, Council at its meeting held on 18 November 2020, resolved to lift the water restrictions for the communities upstream from Windamere Dam, being Rylstone and Kandos due to the Rylstone Dam being at 100% capacity.

## Community Plan implications

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Protecting Our Natural Environment</b>
Goal	Provide total water cycle management
Strategy	Provide a water and sewer network that balances asset conditions with available resources and community needs

## Strategic implications

### Council Strategies

Not applicable.

### Council Policies

Not applicable.

### Legislation

Not applicable.

## Financial implications

Not applicable.

## Associated Risks

Not applicable.

CLAIRE CAM  
MANAGER WATER AND SEWER

GARRY HEMSWORTH  
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

11 May 2021

*Attachments:* Nil

### APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER