



PROPOSED CHANGES TO WATER RESTRICTION TRIGGERS

30 April 2026

Council is updating how we manage our water supply to ensure our community remains resilient during dry periods. Following a review and in response to recent community enquiries, Council is proposing changes to the "trigger levels" that activate different stages of water restrictions.

At its Ordinary Council Meeting on 22 April 2026, Council resolved to seek feedback from the community and stakeholders on the proposed changes.

Details of the proposed trigger levels, including a comparison with the current levels, are provided. See also *DRAFT Water Restrictions Table* document attached to this notice.

The key change is when restrictions start and how early they step up.

COMPARISON TABLE

Restriction Level	2020 Trigger (Dam Level %)	Proposed Trigger (Dam Level %)
Level 1	70%	80%
Level 2	60%	75%
Level 3	50%	65%
Level 4	40%	50%
Level 5	15%	40%

[View this information online: www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au/proposed-changes-to-water-restriction-triggers](http://www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au/proposed-changes-to-water-restriction-triggers)

Why are the triggers changing?

Our current triggers (from 2020) were designed for different climatic conditions. By adjusting these triggers to activate earlier (at higher dam levels), we can conserve water sooner.

This proactive approach helps stretch our existing supply further and potentially avoids or delays the need for the most severe restrictions.

→ PTO

What is changing?

- Restrictions will now begin earlier, when the dam reaches 80% capacity (previously 70%)
 - Each restriction level will also be triggered sooner as water levels drop
 - This means stronger restrictions come into place earlier, helping protect supply before levels get too low
 - For example: Bringing Level 5 restrictions in at 40% dam capacity instead of 15% means we act before the dam reaches critically low levels, not after.
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What this means for our community

The proposed changes aim to strengthen the security of Tenterfield's water supply and reduce the risk of the dam reaching critically low levels during extended dry periods.

Introducing restrictions earlier will support a more gradual reduction in water use, helping the community adapt over time while maintaining supply for essential needs.

Have your say

Community input is an important part of this review process. Feedback will help ensure the proposed changes are reasonable, proportionate, and minimise any unintended impacts.

Submissions can be made via:

- Email: council@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au
- Mail: The General Manager, Tenterfield Shire Council, PO Box 214, TENTERFIELD NSW 2372

Submissions close:

Close of business **Friday, 29 May 2026**