

SEQ Councils unite in joint water conservation campaign

IN A landmark event for local government, Gold Coast has joined with all other councils throughout southeast Queensland in enforcing a unified list of water restrictions as regional supplies continue to fall.

The first-ever joint campaign to conserve water coincides with the combined water storage of Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine dams falling below 35 per cent capacity.

In a show of unity and commitment, all 13 councils involved in the campaign, joined in the announcement of Level 2 Restrictions that came into force on Monday. These conservation measures include:

- NO sprinklers, in ground systems or

unattended watering devices.

- Attended hand-held hoses only.
- ODD numbered properties Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday before 7am and after 7pm
- EVEN and unnumbered properties Wednesday, Friday and Sunday before 7am and after 7pm
- Watering of gardens and lawns with hand-held buckets permitted anytime.
- No hosing, sprinkling or hand-held hose watering on Mondays.

As well as this general guide for residential areas, there is a comprehensive list of further restrictions for commercial and other properties. These can be accessed by visiting www.waterforever.com.au or by

contacting the **Regional Drought Strategy hotline on 1300 789 906.**

The restrictions will be the focus of a widespread communication campaign including media advertising and promotions, direct mail-outs to residents and signage.

Hopes of rainfall and run-off had failed to eventuate for most of the region and concerns are deepening, especially in the Brisbane area.

While the Gold Coast was lucky enough to receive replenishing rain at Hinze Dam in June this year, the rest of the region was not as fortunate.

Adverse weather conditions do not recognise local government boundaries. Hinze Dam is now just under 80 per

cent of capacity - after the June 30 deluge. But it would be a cop-out to say - 'we're doing fine now, we don't need to be part of a regional approach'.

It was only a few years ago that Hinze Dam had dropped to less than 30 per cent and we were looking to the Wivenhoe system as a back up. The tables can turn at any stage - if we expect to be helped in the future, we must be prepared to provide help now and to do our bit as part of a regional team.

The residents in this City have led by example in the past and learned to cope with the restrictions on water to conserve our water supply.

Council is expecting the same co-operation, understanding and support from the community that has become a hallmark of the Gold Coast and helped us to gain national and even international recognition for being a leader in water

conservation, planning and strategies.

Further restrictions would have to be applied if the combined storages of Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine dams fell below 30 per cent.

Until this historic regional agreement, each council had been responsible for its own decisions on restrictions and related policies.

These differing council policies created confusing and even conflicting messages to the community. In some locations, neighbours (in different local government areas) were on different levels of restrictions.

As an added benefit, there will be economies of scale in terms of communication and marketing efforts, leading to greater consumer understanding and acceptance. An extensive advertising and media campaign is being launched to ensure people throughout the region are fully informed about the restrictions.

'Our Natural Gift' DVD now available at Council libraries

THE DVD entitled 'Our Natural Gift', which captures the importance of the Open Space Preservation Levy Acquisition Program to our City's future, can now be borrowed through Council's libraries.

The Open Space Preservation Levy Acquisition Program has been one of

the real success stories of the Gold Coast City Council.

Council in conjunction with the community has purchased more than 2770 hectares of the City's most ecologically significant lands at a cost of more than \$22.2 million.

This DVD highlights

each of the twelve dedicated Conservation Areas, showcasing threatened flora and fauna and magnificent scenery of the Gold Coast's natural environment.

For further information visit our website www.goldcoastcity.com.au/environment.



Artist Laurindo De Abreu Soto proudly admires his masterpiece that graces the streets of Surfers Paradise.

Glitzy Millennium Toy unveiled!

DANCERS, JUGGLERS and street entertainers joined with Councillors and Council staff last week as the curtain came off the "Millennium Toy" artwork in the heart of Surfers Paradise.

Millennium Toy is interactive and, Council believes, it will greatly enhance the local environment of Orchid Avenue by day and night and effectively contribute to the revitalisation of Surfers Paradise.

Millennium Toy cost \$74,177 to design, build and install. The artist is Laurindo De Abreu Soto. He says his work is influenced by "the City's

architectural Art Deco past with its repetitive and geometrical patterns as well as the particular character given by the proximity to the sea".

Mr De Abreu Soto's artwork was one of 25 submissions received for the Heart of the City Streetscaping Features Project. From those, four artists were short-listed and asked to prepare detailed submissions.

Millennium Toy was chosen because it responds exceptionally well to the project brief and is well suited to the Heart of the City design intent. In particular, the artwork

responds to the prevailing atmosphere of Surfers Paradise and its growing sophistication as a city centre. Millennium Toy is extremely durable and, Council believes, represents great value for money.

Millennium Toy is constructed in six cube-like sections from mirror-finished stainless steel. The artwork has a laser light component that gives the work an entirely different presence by night. It's very modern and reflects youth. Its blue, yellow and pink colours reflect the surf, sun, sand and Surfers Paradise nightlife.

Spring into an Active and Healthy lifestyle

IF YOU agree the onset of warmer weather is a great time to kick-start an active and healthy lifestyle - then Gold Coast City Council has an offer too good to refuse.

Parks across the City are playing host throughout Spring to a huge range of activities - all of them free or low-cost.

Council's Active and Healthy Program has activities running each

week for all ages and ability levels, led by friendly, qualified instructors.

They include \$2 fitness sessions, kids' active afternoons, small sports (interactive, fun activities for children aged three to five years), boot camp, skateboarding workshops, rock climbing, teen boxercise for girls, senior strength (gentle, outdoor, group exercise session), health and wellness walks, healthy heart walks,

beachfront jungle gym workouts, toddler aerobics, stroller group, tai chi, body bliss and much more.

The program's philosophy is that being active and looking after our health should be fun. You don't have to be fit to join in and have fun and there's no need to feel intimidated. The important thing is to get out there and get active.

The Active and Healthy program is

available on line at Council's website, at Council's libraries and offices and at Community Health Centres.

The Queensland Government through Sport and Recreation Queensland provided more than \$60,000 to the Gold Coast City Council to run the Active and Healthy Citywide Activity Program to encourage more Gold Coasters to participate.

There are links to application forms, design and fit-out guides, image galleries, operator self-assessment checklists as well as other helpful fact sheets and information.

Some of the activities that require permits and licences are accommodation, busking, food operations (premises, food stalls, mobile vehicles), mobile refuse container cleaners, tattooing and body piercing, hairdressing and beauty therapy, removable fixtures on footpaths such as large umbrellas, permanent and temporary advertising signs, stationary roadside vending, tables and chairs on footpaths, and environmentally relevant activities including motor vehicle workshops, abrasive blasters, animal housing, asphalt manufacturers, boat maintainers and repairers, boiler makers and engineers, concrete batching, fibreglass product and plastic foam manufacturers, poultry farms, printing, metal surface coating, metal recovery and automotive dismantling.

For information on how to build a better, fully-compliant business, log on to Council's website at www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/licences. Alternatively, contact Council's Health Services Section on (07) 5581 6220.