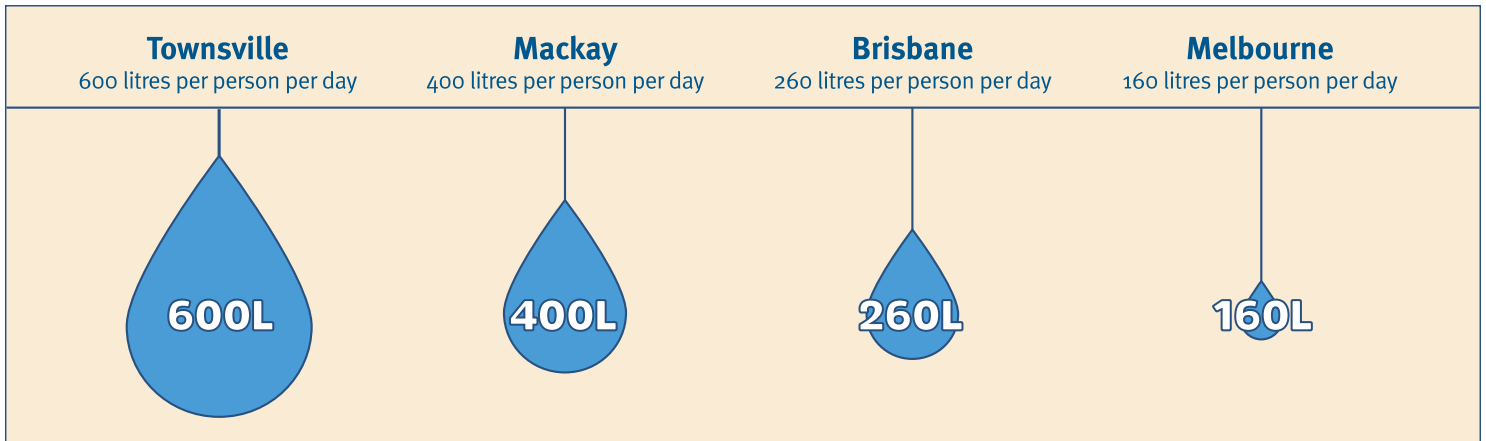




Our water - Love Every Drop



Our city

Our location at the heart of North Queensland's dry tropics means Townsville's water consumption is among the highest in Australia. More than 70% of Townsville's residential water supply is currently being used on our lawns and gardens.

The cycle for drought in Townsville is about every 10 years. We need water restrictions to reduce our daily consumption in order to delay pumping water from the Burdekin Dam.

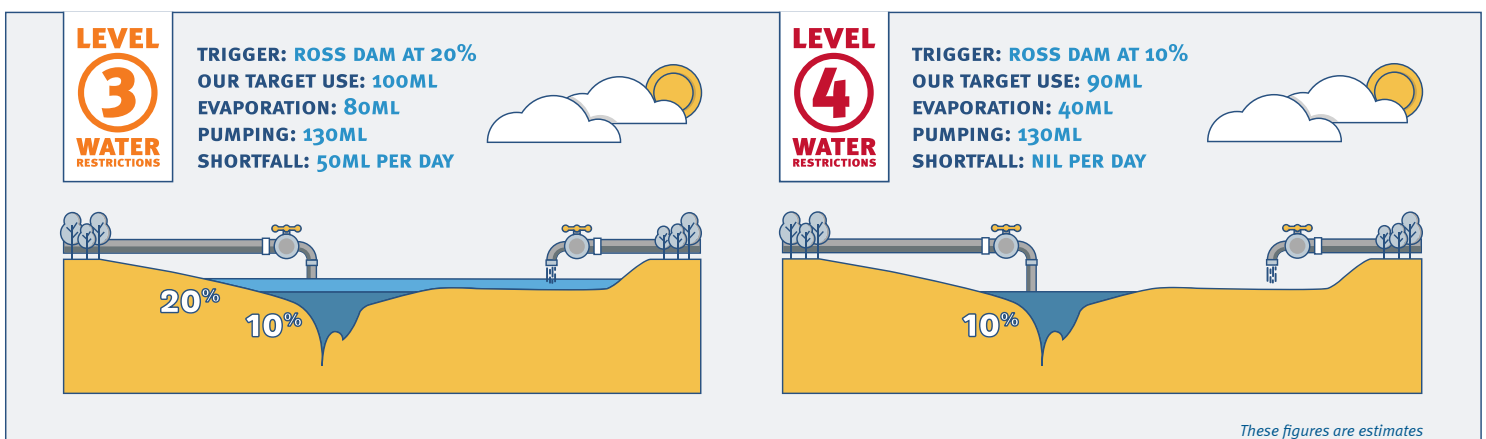
With a current capacity of 233 187 ML, the Ross River Dam has a catchment area of 750 sq kms and supplies 85% of Townsville's water. The dam is wide and shallow and suffers very high evaporation levels. The remaining 15% is sourced from the Paluma/Crystal Creek system.

Our options

We have a contract that provides access to water from the Burdekin Dam. In dire drought situations, 130 ML of water per day is pumped to Ross River Dam at a cost of \$27 000 per day including the electricity for the pumps.

If we start pumping from the Burdekin Dam before our dam hits 20%, most of our 130 ML allocation would evaporate into the atmosphere. This is why we wait until it gets to below 20% to start pumping.

The aim of the Houghton duplication project is to increase that pumping capacity so that as the city grows, we can continue to achieve a water balance during Level 4 restrictions.



Our plan

While adopting a few simple changes in household behaviour can save tens of thousands of litres of water each year, we need to do more to secure Townsville's water future today. And we are.

Our 10 year Water Demand Management Strategy is already in place and aims to improve the efficiency and security of Townsville's water service to its residents and to educate and empower everyone to take action, change behavior and truly value our water.

www.townsville.qld.gov.au 1300 878 001

