

The following information is the most recent released by the City of Cape Town. All queries to be directed to the CoCT:

**Water myth busting:**

| Myth  | Busted   |
|---|--|
| Day Zero/the water crisis is/was a myth   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential for a Day Zero is and never was a myth. We conservatively projected it based on the actual rate of fall in dam levels. As irrigation and urban usage has reduced, so too has the rate of fall reduced and our Day Zero projection moved out. This was communicated transparently and honestly. The data on which these projections were made is independently available from the national Department of Water and Sanitation and is published in local newspapers.</li> <li>• The City would never jeopardise this city and its residents, businesses and economy unnecessarily by faking a Day Zero projection just as a scare tactic.</li> <li>• The water crisis is real. Just have a look at our dams to get the correct picture.</li> <li>• The crisis puts the City's water income into a deficit. We would not deliberately fail to sell water if we had more to sell, as that would provide more income than increasing tariffs.</li> </ul> |
| Level 6 restrictions and tariffs are no longer needed because Day Zero has moved out.           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have to keep the restrictions in place. It is the low consumption that prevents us reaching Day Zero this year.</li> </ul>   |
| City is acting illegally with the installation of Water Management Devices for high water users | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Water By-law and a Council-approved directive empowers the City to install water management devices at the properties of high water users. It is a legal action which has also helped us to avert Day Zero. In terms of metering, these devices are SABS approved. They are installed across the city as every suburb has high users. High users receive a warning and a chance to correct behaviour, or to approach the City if there are many occupants on a property. Any action to prevent the legal installation of water management devices is illegal. The City will not</li> </ul>  |

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|  | tolerate actions that intimidate our officials, or contractors, or interfere with the execution of their legal duties. |
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## **CITY OF CAPE TOWN**

**18 MARCH 2018**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Theft and vandalism compromise water security**

*The City of Cape Town has been informed that theft from aquifer drilling sites is making it difficult for contractors to bring more water online timeously. Furthermore, theft of other City infrastructure often results in water running to waste. The City is calling on residents to keep an eye out for any suspicious activities. Read more below:*

The City of Cape Town notes with concern the reports from our contractors of theft from aquifer drilling sites. This is resulting in delays of weeks at a time, which the population can ill afford. Tools, batteries, vehicles and any materials which could be perceived to have scrap value are being targeted.

‘It is incredibly frustrating that even such crucial work is not immune from these destructive elements in our society. We are calling on any residents that may have information on these activities to please come forward with any information that could assist with investigations,’ said Mayoral Committee Member for Informal Settlements, Water and Waste Services; and Energy, Cllr Xanthea Limberg.

Theft of the City’s water supply infrastructure is still worryingly common. In cases where fire hydrants, water meters, and valves are damaged by thieves and vandals the result is often water running to waste. Since July 2017 more than R5 million worth of hydrants, meters and valves have been stolen or damaged.

‘It is not possible to reliably say how much water has been lost, but in this time of scarcity any water lost due to theft and vandalism is too much,’ said Cllr Limberg.

Residents can report vandalism of City infrastructure to the City’s Call Centre on 0860 103 089. Members of the public can report metal theft or provide tip-offs to the Metal Theft Unit control room on 0800 222 771 or 021 400 2828. Theft

can also be reported to the South African Police Service on 10111, or the Public Emergency Call Centre by calling 107 from a landline or 021 480 7700 from a cellphone.

'When communities are vigilant and report vandalism of infrastructure, the infrastructure Capetonians are paying for via rates and tariffs, it not only ensures that more criminals are apprehended but also creates a climate in which it is more difficult for criminals to operate. We need the assistance of the public to address this issue,' said Cllr Limberg

End

Issued by: Media Office, City of Cape Town

## **CITY OF CAPE TOWN**

**20 MARCH 2018**

### **STATEMENT BY THE CITY'S EXECUTIVE DEPUTY MAYOR, ALDERMAN IAN NEILSON**

#### **Let's keep our water-saving focus, Team Cape Town**

***As at Monday 19 March 2018, our collective consumption over the past week was 565 million litres of water per day. Unfortunately, usage has increased by 54 million litres per day from last week's record low of 511 million litres per day. Nevertheless, we are confident that our water users will again shatter water use records in the weeks ahead. Read more below:***

Our dam levels have shown only a slight decline of 0,3% to 22,7% . This is the lowest decline in dam levels this year to date. This can likely be attributed to somewhat lower evaporation rates and small amounts of rainfall, especially in the Steenbras Dam area.

We will continue to monitor the water usage trend to see whether the increase in consumption is a once-off occurrence or whether there is another underlying reason that would need to be addressed.

Level 6B water restrictions are still in place. Water pressure reduction remains in place, water management devices continue to be installed on the

connections of high water users and the bills based on 6B tariffs are reaching consumers. It is essential that we all continue to save water.

All water users are reminded that the City is still required by the National Government to reduce water usage to 450 million litres per day in order to stretch the available water supplies through the rest of the year. This equates to a reduction of 45% from normal usage. We are currently hovering at just below a 40% reduction. A sustained collective push is now required to reduce consumption by just 5% in order to achieve our target.

We will continue to drive our initiatives to reduce water consumption. This will include advanced pressure management, the installation of water management devices at the properties of high water users and proactively implementing advanced water restrictions and associated tariffs to encourage behaviour change.

If all Capetonians join us by keeping their consumption down to 50 litres of water a day, or less, we will avoid having to take more drastic actions.

**Please visit [www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater](http://www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater) for all water-related information, including Level 6B restrictions and FAQs about Day Zero as well as tips to lower usage even further.**

**End**

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**22 MARCH 2018**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Water map savings milestone reached for February**

***The monthly update of the water map for February shows that 203 000 households have achieved dark green dots for their water saving efforts. These households are using 6 000 litres or less per month. The City of Cape Town challenges all households to aim for a dark green dot. Read more below:***

This latest achievement by Team Cape Town shows that the number households who have now earned the coveted dark green water saving dot has increased by 32% or 49 000 households. This is a great way to celebrate World Water Day today.

The water map marks residential properties using less than 10 500 litres per month with green dots. The map shows that many households across Cape Town are working hard to save water to get us through the worst drought in recorded history.

'With the immediate threat of Day Zero having been averted for now, we still need to stretch our water resources to the maximum to make it through the winter, and through another potentially harsh summer. Our predicament is that we do not know what kind of rainfall to expect. All of us, therefore, need to stick to 50 litres per person per day – rain or shine, and with or without an immediate Day Zero looming. We are required by the National Department of Water and Sanitation to bring our consumption down to 450 million litres per day. We haven't quite reached this target yet but we know that Cape Town will again come together to do what needs to be done. Thank you Team Cape Town,' said the City's Mayoral Committee Member for Informal Settlements, Water and Waste Services; and Energy, Councillor Xanthea Limberg.

Visit [www.capetown.gov.za/watermap](http://www.capetown.gov.za/watermap) to view the latest map.

**Consumption is indicated on the map as follows:**

- Dark green dot: household using less than 6 000 litres per month
- Grey dot with small dark green centre: estimated water meter reading of less than 6 000 litres per month
- Grey dot with small light green centre: estimated water meter reading of less than 10 500 litres per month
- Solid grey dot: excluded property (including: sectional title property or group housing / undeveloped property / water use is zero / no available information for the property / estimated water meter reading of more than 10 500 litres per month)

**Note:** the map simply indicates water consumption, not compliance with water restriction limits. Households with higher consumption may have many people living on the property, or may have an undetected water leak.

The map only shows consumption for free-standing houses, and not cluster housing, flats or other land uses. In addition, the map shows consumption information from meters read in February, and may include a portion of consumption from January depending on when your meter was read. This information is updated around the third week of the following month.

Households using more than 10 500 litres per month are not shown on the map. However, high consumers are often unaware of their consumption but are willing to change their behaviour once approached.

Remember that consumption higher than 10 500 litres per month (no green dot) does not necessarily indicate water abuse. There are many legitimate reasons for this:

- High number of occupants or guests in the house
- Water leaks that the occupants are unaware of (this happens frequently)
- The operation of a home business or B&B on the property
- Recently completed building work
- Consumption is not shown for group housing or properties with an estimated water reading of over 10 500 litres or where information is not available
- In rare cases, there may be an error in the consumption information, the property may have the incorrect tariff land-use code, or the consumption information could be spatially linked to the incorrect property on the map

Also note that consumption indicated on the map lags behind actual consumption, and the problem causing the high consumption may have already been addressed.

### **Are there errors in the consumption data?**

The consumption information data is generally quite accurate. However, no billing system is 100% correct. The City will continue to do its best to investigate all complaints received regarding the accuracy of the map.

**End**

**Issued by: Media Office, City of Cape Town**

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