



## Fact Sheet

### WATER USAGE

## Water Usage

The Earth's resources, or natural resources, are something that is found in nature and can be used by people.

Sustainability refers to using resources in such a way that they will continue to be available in the future. The survival of humans depends on the natural environment and the sustainable use of natural resources.

### How the water cycle works

Earth's natural resources include light, air, water, plants, animals, soil, stone, minerals and fossil fuels. People need some natural resources to stay alive. They use others to make their lives better.

Renewable resources include sunlight, water and air and they cannot be used up however pollution and misuse can make them harder to access and use.

Plants and animals are also renewable resources. Normally living things replace themselves through reproduction. But such human activities as hunting, logging, building, and polluting can cause whole groups of living things to disappear forever.

Non-renewable resources are non-living things such as stone, soil, minerals and gases can take thousands or millions of years to form. They are considered non-renewable because people use them faster than they can form.

Fossil fuels are a non-renewable resource and are formed from the buried remains of ancient plants and animals over millions of years. Petroleum, coal, and natural gas are fossil fuels.

### Overuse of Water

It's important to be sustainable in our water use at all times. If we practice being sustainable when the times are good – when there's lots of water in our storages – then it make us more resilient and self-sufficient in times of drought and low supply.

The overuse of water can lead to increasing water restriction levels and mandatory water consumption requirements. It can also mean some council owned assets may be impacted – including our pools. Our parks, gardens and sporting facilities won't be green (unless bore water is available!). And our rivers and streams will be unhealthy.

### Sustainable Water use

Water is one of our most precious resources. We can all do our part to help ensure water is used efficiently in the home, garden and at work.

Australia is one of the driest countries in the world and Tamworth can be a very dry place. Water sustainability is key for a positive future of our region.

Water sustainability means using water wisely and efficiently, even in the good times when our rivers are flowing and our dams are full. Council is committed to leading the way and ensuring that Tamworth is a water sustainable region.

