21 November 2021

Minimal inflows at Lake Awoonga despite recent rainfall

Recent rainfall has failed to significantly increase capacity at Lake Awoonga, with local residents asked to remain mindful of the Gladstone region's ongoing Low Supply Alert status.

Capacity at Awoonga Dam is currently 49%, indicating a slight improvement since the start of November (48%).

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) Chief Executive Officer Darren Barlow said the Low Supply Alert was declared earlier this year following prolonged drought conditions and three consecutive failed wet seasons.

"Under GAWB's Drought Management Plan, a Low Supply Alert is declared when there is five years reliable water supply remaining in Awoonga Dam.

"While the Bureau of Meteorology is predicting a wetter than average summer, our message remains the same: we all need to play our part and make every drop count."

Mr Barlow said the water board would not rule out formal supply restrictions if the coming wet season did not deliver significant rainfall.

"The Low Supply Alert will remain in place until more stringent level one supply restrictions are deemed necessary or, alternatively, when significant inflows are received and it can be removed.

"People are seeing green parks and gardens and may not realise that capacity at Awoonga Dam continues to fall and the Gladstone region remains drought declared.

"As the weather warms up, we typically see increased water consumption across the region so we're asking everyone to be be aware and make every drop count this summer.

"Long term water security in the region is our number one priority and we're working with our community, industrial customers and the Queensland Government to respsond to water supply challenges brought on by drought, climate change and customer demand."

For more information on Gladstone Area Water Board's Drought Management Plan, Awoonga Dam capacity and waterwise tips visit: https://www.gawb.qld.gov.au/drought-management-plan

Ends.
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