

PRACTICE WICKETS/WATERING/WATER RESTRICTIONS

We have received this important message from Des Horton at City West Water which we are circulating as widely as possible as part of Cricket Victoria's Drought Response Strategies.

Practice Cricket Pitches

In general, practice pitches to be prepared for cricket practice at a facility are NOT to be watered, regardless of whether or not the oval is being generally watered under an approved water conservation plan (eg one of the 1 in 4 grounds with a 25% annual saving). Even where a practice pitch square is within the playing surface of a ground with an approved water conservation plan, that area may only be watered as part of the ground, and not specifically to prepare the practice pitch/es.

Water used to prepare cricket pitches is covered by the Exempt Playing Surface provisions (not the 1 in 4 sportsgrounds), and is only allowed to be used to prepare competition pitches to allow play to be carried out on as many grounds as possible – once again, regardless of approval to water the whole ground.

In general, practice is to be carried out on synthetic pitches available at the vast majority of facilities, or by alternative arrangements.

This is applicable regardless of the level of cricket competition being played at the ground.

Des Horton has advised that he would be pleased to take enquiries on this matter. His contact details are as follows:

Des Horton
Water Conservation Specialist
Telephone (03) 9313 8269
Mobile 0411 017 499
Email: DHorton@citywestwater.com.au

Please note that CV must maintain a responsible stance on this matter. The State Government and the water authorities have been receptive to and supportive of requests for consideration from sporting bodies but, unless your club or council authority has specific watering exemptions or special arrangements, this ruling is quite clear.

For further information please visit:

Drought information at www.cricketvictoria.com.au -> Drought Information

Water storages at www.melbournewater.com.au

