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Task 3

Read this article on water shortages in Australia. Your task is to fill in the gaps in the sentences (16-22) according to the information in the text. Write one word only on the dotted lines. An example (0) has been given for you.

Water shortages, undrinkable tap water, showers rationed: welcome to Australia

Once it was Australia's best grazing land. Now, after four years of drought, the rolling hills around the agricultural city of Goulburn are bleached and lifeless.

Farmers are unable to keep livestock (sheep or cows), and water rationing has been imposed. The water that dribbles from the tap, dredged from the bottom of an empty reservoir, is considered unfit for human consumption.

Goulburn, with a population of 22,000, is close to running out of water. Unless there is significant rainfall over the next few weeks, the city's Pejar Dam, which normally contains nine billion litres of water, will be drained of its last drop. While small Australian communities of a few hundred that have run dry have survived by trucking in water, Goulburn's thirst for one million gallons a week is too large.

And as anxious Goulburn residents look to the skies and pray for rain, those living in Sydney, Australia's largest city, only 125 miles away, are preparing themselves for severe water rationing. Sydney's main reservoir is already 40 per cent below capacity.

Australia, the world's driest continent, is accustomed to emergency measures to prevent the taps from running dry. But even for a nation used to drought, the lack of rain across much of the eastern seaboard is raising serious concerns. For the first time in memory, large urban communities face having no water to drink.

In Goulburn, a city that owed its prosperity to the livestock trade, the best-known landmark is a statue of a giant Merino sheep. But the agricultural-based economy has been hit hard, with key employers recently ordered to reduce water consumption by 30 per cent. Homes are being allowed to use only 40 gallons (180 litres) of water per resident a day, the equivalent of a ten-minute shower.

Adding to Goulburn's concerns are signs of a developing El Nino weather pattern, caused by fluctuations in ocean temperatures, which is believed to worsen drought conditions in Australia.

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0) Goulburn's main source of income has traditionally been ...*agriculture*..

16) There is very little water left in the city's

16)

17) If the drought continues, the Pejar Dam will become completely

17)

.....

18) If Goulburn was, they could use vans and
lorries to cart in water.

18)

19) If the dry weather continues, the city of

19)

..... will experience similar
shortages and cuts.

20) The long dry spell has mainly affected the

20)

..... part of Australia.

21) Goulburn's most famous sight is a huge

21)

22) Prospects are worrying because of signs of a dangerous weather

22)

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