

Summer water restrictions the new normal unless we conserve



For the first time in many years parts of South Taranaki will likely see water restrictions this summer, largely due to new regulations and a storm affected river catchment.

South Taranaki District Council Group Manager of Community and Infrastructure Services Fiona Aitken says severe weather events on the maunga during spring resulted in significant erosion and silting of the Waiaua river catchment which feeds the Ōpunakē water supply.

“With heavy rainfall the river quickly becomes laden with debris and silt which clogs the intake to the water treatment plant and puts severe strain on our ability to treat and process the water.”

Aitken says the Council is working on plans to stabilise the area around the intake, however these won't be complete for some time, so the only option is to conserve water or introduce restrictions.

In other parts of the District, new consent conditions

also mean water restrictions are more likely.

“We had to renew our consent for taking water from the Waingongoro River for the Eltham Water Supply. As part of our consent conditions if the river drops to a certain level we must introduce water restrictions too - we don't have any option.”

Aitken says these new conditions are all part of the government's freshwater reforms which have a greater focus on preserving the health and vitality of our streams and rivers than previously.

“We need to appreciate that this is the new normal, not just for South Taranaki but the whole of New Zealand,” says Aitken. “We are fortunate in that we've got enough water to go around, but not enough to waste. We just need people to conserve, fix leaks, use water wisely and not be wasteful. If we can do that, we can protect the health of our streams and rivers and get through summer without needing widespread restrictions.”



WE NEED TO CONSERVE WATER NOW TO AVOID RESTRICTIONS

How can we help?

If you think you have a leak, the easiest way to check is to have a look at your water meter at night when there should be little to no water running through the meter. If your meter is still increasing, it is likely you have a leak.

Not too sure what to do?

You can always ring Council on 0800 111 323 for assistance and advice for how to track your leak, we can also put you in touch with some leak detection services.

Giving you a heads up

Over the next month, we'll be doing night reads of those properties using the smart Opito meters and letting those with possible leaks and high water consumption know.

Conserving water on your dairy farm

- **Check your meter regularly.** If your consumption seems higher than usual, you could have a leak that is wasting water and costing you money.
- **Check that ball cocks on troughs are set correctly** and have not been damaged. If a ball cock is set too high it could spill water during windy conditions or overflow constantly.
- **Re-use the pre-cooler water** that chills down milk.
- Use **wash down water** for irrigation.
- **Capture rainwater** and use it wherever possible.
- **Use correct pump and pipe sizes.** If your pipes are too small, they will restrict the flow of water. By using the appropriate pipe size, you can actually get more pressure with less flow.



Stock trough with ball cock set too high

The easiest way to stay up-to-date



Antenno

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The fastest and easiest way of hearing about water restrictions, or any other Council news, is by downloading the free mobile app Antenno.

Antenno sends you alerts and notifications, about places and topics you care about. It doesn't ask for any personal information or log in details, so it's a nice easy way to stay informed.

There are two ways you can use Antenno; to receive notifications from Council about the places you have marked

as important to you, or reporting back to Council on issues or feedback.

Other ways to stay up-to-date is by

- liking and following our Facebook page. Simply log in to www.facebook.com and search for 'South Taranaki District Council'.
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