

# Kaipara District Drought Management Plans

**Meeting:** Council Briefing  
**Date of meeting:** 3 February 2021  
**Reporting officer:** Donnicks Mugutso, Waters and Waste Manager

## Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To brief Council on proposed changes to existing Drought Management Plans (DMPs) - Dargaville and Maungaturoto Water Supply Schemes - and the proposed creation of DMPs for Ruawai, Glinks Gully and Mangawhai Water Supply Schemes.

## Context/Horopaki

Section 1709 of the Kaipara District Council bylaw states that the Council can impose water restrictions at any time for reasons ranging from unavailability of water to misuse of the water supply service by consumers.

In 2020, at the height of the Northland dry summer, Council imposed water restrictions up to Level 4 of the Drought Management Plans for Dargaville & Baylys Beach and Maungaturoto. Due to the severity of the drought, three other water supply areas of the district namely Ruawai, Glinks Gully and Mangawhai were placed under the equivalent of Level 4 restrictions imposed on Dargaville and Maungaturoto. This posed a risk in that some communities did not understand what the restrictions meant for them as there are no DMPs for their communities.

When moving between the different levels, it was difficult to articulate what the impact was for the community compared with operational. Specifically, moving to Level 4 from Level 4 does not have a significant impact for our community but it does change operational requirements.

At a 'lessons learnt' session within the 4 Waters Advisory Group Northland meetings, it was noted that there was no consistency between the Northland Councils on what the different levels of restrictions meant for the communities in the different Councils.

Officers are now working through updates to the DMPs in two steps

- Step 1 – Refine the terminology around the drought levels to make more sense to the community and be consistent across the region
- Step 2 – Create new DMPs for the remaining three areas and update the existing DMPs to take on board lessons learnt

This briefing is providing advance notification of the likely change for Level 4 and seeking any feedback. It also provides an opportunity for Elected Members to highlight considerations for the team to address as part of the development of the DMPs.

## Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

Water Level Restrictions for the three Councils are shown below:

**Fig 1: Whangarei District Council (WDC) Water Restrictions Level**

Level	Message	Associated Dam level
1	Use water sensibly	Step 4
2	No sprinklers	Step 5
3	No sprinklers or hoses	Step 5
4	Essential use only	Step 6

**Fig 2: Far North District Council (FNDC) Water Restrictions Levels**

Level	Residential Restrictions Summary
Level 1	Use water sensibly. No restrictions on the use of water.
Level 2	No sprinklers. Water restrictions in place.
Level 3	No hoses or sprinklers. Water restrictions in place.
Level 4	Essential use only. Full water restrictions in place.

**Fig 3: Kaipara District Council (KDC) Water Restrictions Levels**

Trigger Level	Date <sup>10</sup>	Flow in Kaihu River at Gorge Recorder Site 46611	Water Level At Rotu Intake	Community Actions	KDC Communications
Business as Usual	-	>1000L/s	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No restrictions in place; and</li> <li>Minimise losses and efficient use of water encouraged.</li> </ul>	
1	01 Nov	<1000L/s	>100mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General water conservation awareness; and</li> <li>No restrictions in place.</li> </ul>	1 Issue Community Notice – <b>Water Alert Level 1</b> : a) KDC Communications Manager to publish notice in local newspaper.
2		<900L/s	>100mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice to conserve water; and</li> <li>No sprinkler notice.</li> </ul>	1 Issue Community Notice – <b>Water Alert Level 2</b> ; a) KDC Communications Manager to publish notice in local newspaper. 2 Media release of river levels, rainfall and dam levels; a) KDC Communications Manager to publish media release. 3 Advise Silver Fern Farms / Kumara Processors of Water Alert Status; a) KDC Operations Engineer to communicate by email. 4 Fire Service and Rural Fire Service requested to stop practising and testing from live hydrants; a) KDC Communications Manager to contact Fire Service.
3		<755L/s)	>100mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sprinkler ban;</li> <li>Hose ban;</li> <li>Silver Fern Farms to reduce water usage;</li> </ul>	1 Issue Community Notice – <b>Water Alert Level 3</b> ; a) KDC Communications Manager to publish notice in local newspaper. 2 Media release;

Trigger Level	Date <sup>10</sup>	Flow in Kaihu River at Gorge Recorder Site 46611	Water Level At Rotu Intake	Community Actions	KDC Communications
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kumara processors to reduce water usage;</li> <li>Water carriers to utilise alternative source; and</li> <li>Car wash facility to reduce water consumption.</li> </ul>	a) KDC Communications Manager to publish media release. 3 Radio station advertising; a) KDC Communications Manager to release. 4 Water Alert Level 3 to front page of KDC website; a) KDC Communications Manager to publish. 5 Request Silver Fern Farms and Kumara processors to reduce water usage; a) KDC Operations Engineer to Communicate. 6 Advise car wash facility to reduce water usage; a) KDC Communications Manager to contact. 7 Advise water carriers to use alternate source; a) KDC Communications Manager to contact.
4 <sup>11</sup>		<645 L/s	<100mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sprinkler ban;</li> <li>Hose ban;</li> <li>Silver Fern Farms to reduce water usage;</li> <li>Kumara processors to reduce water usage;</li> <li>Water carriers to utilise alternative source i.e. Ruawai;</li> </ul>	1 Issue Community Notice – <b>Water Alert Level 4</b> ; a) KDC Communications Manager to publish notice in local newspaper. 2 Media release; a) KDC Communications Manager to publish media release. 3 Radio station advertising; a) KDC Communications Manager to release. 4 Water Alert Level 4 to front page of KDC website; a) KDC Communications Manager to publish. 5 Letter drop to all KDC customers detailing restrictions;

The WDC and the FNDC water restrictions levels were aligned in January 2016. Although Levels 1 and 2 restrictions closely mean the same for the communities in the region, KDC's Level 3 and 4 need to be aligned with the rest of the region.

Officers intend to align the KDC Water Restrictions Levels with the rest of the region. I.e.

Level	Message
1	Use water sensibly
2	No sprinklers
3	No sprinklers or hoses
4	Essential use only

Actions relating to major water users will be reviewed and updated in the March Council Meeting. This will allow progression made with organisations on their own water use reduction measures to be incorporated.

In the June report, we will seek Council approval to adopt the revised Drought Management Plans for Dargaville & Baylys Beach, Maungaturoto and new DMPs for Glinks Gully, Ruawai and Mangawhai. The focus will be on further alignment of the DMP format and content, explanation of the roles of water carriers and any other information that the Council would like to see captured in the new DMPs.

## Next steps/E whaiake nei

February Council meeting - DMP report recommending changes to terminology for Council Approval

An in-depth revision of the Dargaville and Maungaturoto Drought Management Plans and a creation of new DMPs for Glinks Gully, Ruawai and Mangawhai Water Supplies is planned to be completed by May 2021 and presented to Council in June.

## Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Drought Management Plans