

Kaipara District Council Drought Management Plan Adoption

Meeting: Kaipara District Council
 Date of meeting: 29 September 2021
 Reporting officer: Donnack Mugutso, Operations Manager

Purpose | Ngā whāinga

To update Council on the new Drought Management Plan (DMP) for Kaipara District Council (KDC) which now combines the Dargaville and Maungaturoto Drought Management Plans with the newly created plans for Ruawai, Glinks Gully and Mangawhai Water Supply Schemes.

Executive summary | Whakarāpopototanga

The Kaipara District Council Drought Management Plan (DMP) has been revised for Dargaville and Baylys Beach and Maungaturoto with new plans created for the three water supply areas of Ruawai, Glinks Gully and Mangawhai to form one document for the 5 water supply schemes.

The new Kaipara District Council DMP aligns the 4 Water Use Restrictions Alert Levels with those of Whangarei and Far North District Councils. It highlights the importance of Water Supply and Demand Management well before restrictions are required. Table 1 below shows the water restriction levels for Kaipara District Council under the new Drought Management Plan.

Fig 1: Water Use Restrictions for Kaipara District Council

Level	Water Use Restrictions Summary
Level 1	No restrictions on the use of water. Communications on using water sensibly.
Level 2	Water use restrictions in place (e.g. no sprinklers)
Level 3	Water use restrictions in place. (e.g. no hoses, sprinklers or filling private swimming pools from mains supply)
Level 4	Full water use restrictions in place. Council Approved Essential use only.

Recommendation | Ngā tūtohunga

That the Kaipara District Council adopt the district wide Drought Management Plan

- Adopts the Kaipara District Council Drought Management Plan (**Attachment A** in this report).

Context | Horopaki

Background

In February 2021, we presented to Council, in a Briefing, a proposal to create a new Drought Management Plan for the Kaipara District Council to achieve the following objectives:

- Align the Drought Management Plan with those of Whangārei District Council (WDC) and Far North District Council (FNDC).
- Create a combined Drought Management Plan incorporating all five of the Water Supply schemes in the district.
- Create Drought Management Plan procedures for the Water Supply Schemes of Ruawai, Glinks Gully and Mangawhai which previously did not have Drought Management Plans.

Part 10, clauses 10 and 11 of the Kaipara District Council general bylaw state that the Council can impose Water Use Restrictions at any time for reasons ranging from unavailability of water to misuse of the water supply service by consumers. This Drought Management Plan focuses on management of water in water shortage situations.

2020 Drought Management

In 2020, at the height of the Northland dry summer, Council imposed Water Use 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 were no DMPs for their communities.

At a 'lessons learnt' session with the 4 Waters Advisory Group Northland, 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. It was also noted that restrictions caused some non-reticulated communities to wait longer and pay more for water to fill their tanks.

Changes in Legislation and its Interpretation

During low flow in the source rivers and streams, Council has previously relied on Water Shortage Directions from the Northland Regional Council (NRC). However, the use of these have recently been clarified by the NRC that they are not meant for water suppliers like Councils to exceed their consented water take limits.

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 introduces the concept of *Te Mana o te Wai* which refers to the fundamental importance of water and recognises that protecting the health of freshwater protects the health and well-being of the wider environment and is about restoring and preserving the balance between the water, the wider environment, and the community and is relevant for all freshwater management.

The hierarchy of obligations in *Te Mana o te Wai* prioritise:

- (a) first, the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems
- (b) second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water)
- (c) third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future

These changes mean that it will be more difficult for water suppliers to obtain new consents or increase the volume of their water takes on existing consents. This calls for conservation of water always, whether during restriction or not.

The New Drought Management Plan

The new Drought Management Plan (DMP) therefore addresses these challenges through highlighting the importance of demand management well before Water Use Restrictions are implemented or required. The new DMP also aligns the alert levels for Water Use Restrictions for KDC with those of Whangarei and Far North District Councils.

Key changes in the Drought Management Plan are

- All Kaipara water systems are included in one DMP
- Emphasis on Demand Management
- Alignment of alert levels to improve communication

It is noted that once Level 3 is reached, Water Carriers are restricted from using Kaipara Water Systems.

Demand Management

Council works with large consumers like Fonterra and Silver Fern Farms to have long-term plans for water demand management. They have set some water use reduction targets, with some already achieved in the past few years through water reuse.

Silver Fern Farms uses approximately 30% of the treated water supply to Dargaville and Baylys Beach while Fonterra uses approximately 75% of the raw water supply to Maungaturoto.

Silver Fern Farms achieved a 7.7% water use reduction per kilogram of product in 2020 against a target of 10% with a year-on-year target of 5% going forward.

Fonterra achieved a 20% reduction in water use in 2020 by bringing a wetland recovery project online and they target a further 15% reduction in 2021. See Table 1 below.

Table 1: KDC Large Water Users' Reuse Data in %

User	Type of Water	Percentage Usage of Council Supply	2020 Water Use Reduction	Future Reduction Target
Silver Fern	Treated	30	7.7	5 (Year-on-Year)
Fonterra	Raw	75	20	15 (2021)

Council Actions in Managing Water (Supply and Demand Management)

Council is taking the following steps, among others, to manage demand, reduce water loss, build resilience, and enhance security of supply:

- Working with large water users to reduce water use.
- We continue to respond and compel our contractors to react quickly to water pipe breaks to minimise losses.
- Continued investment in renewals with the Water Supply Renewals budget for the 2021-2031 LTP increased as compared to previous LTPs.
- Investigating partnerships with iwi and financiers like Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and Northland Regional Council (NRC) to construct a treatment plant and a truck filler within the non-reticulated areas like Kaihu to increase resilience for communities on water tanks.
- Partnering with DIA to build a truck filler in Maungaturoto to build resilience for the non-reticulated areas in the western side of the district.
- Applying for a new consent for Dargaville at Ahikiwi to increase water supply capacity.
- Exploration of the Waiatua Dam as an augmented water supply and resource consent decoupling for water supply security for Dargaville.
- Exploring possible participation in the Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust Water Storage project to enhance resilience and increase water supply security for Dargaville water supply.

- Collaboration with other Councils and external stakeholders in the region to explore a possible wider water supply for Mangawhai.
- Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the other Northland Councils and NRC to help manage existing consents, minimise water losses and invest in resilience and water security enhancing projects.

Alignment of Alert Levels

Even after applying the water supply and demand management principles and actions above, situations will arise where water use restrictions need to be applied due to shortages caused by drought or other factors.

Therefore, apart from highlighting the importance of supply and demand management, the new Drought Management Plan has been written to harmonise the alert levels during Water Use Restrictions.

Water Level Restrictions for the three Councils are shown below:

Fig 2: Whangarei District Council (WDC) Water Use 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 3: Far North District Council (FNDC) Water Use 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 4: New Kaipara District Council (KDC) Water Use Restrictions Levels

Level	Water Use Restrictions Summary
Level 1	No restrictions on the use of water. Communications on using water sensibly.
Level 2	Water use restrictions in place (e.g. no sprinklers)
Level 3	Water use restrictions in place. (e.g. no hoses, sprinklers or filling private swimming pools from mains supply)
Level 4	Full water use restrictions in place. Council Approved Essential use only.

The WDC and the FNDC Water Use Restrictions levels were aligned in January 2016. Although Levels 1 and 2 restrictions closely meant the same for the communities in the region, KDC's Level 3 and 4 needed to be aligned with the rest of the region. The new Levels now align KDC's levels with those of WDC and FNDC.

Discussion | Ngā kōrerorero

Policy and planning implications

None

Financial implications

None

Risks and mitigations

None

Impacts on Māori

None

Significance and engagement | Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

The decisions or matters of this report are considered to have a low degree of significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. No feedback is required, and the public will be informed of Council's decision via the agenda and minutes publication of this meeting, on the website and through other channels if appropriate.

Next steps | E whaiake nei

Implement the Drought Management Plan and regularly review as required.

Attachments | Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Kaipara District Council Drought Management Plan