

Kaipara water restrictions

Meeting: Kaipara District Council
Date of meeting: 26 February 2020
Reporting officer: Donnack Mugutso, Waters and Waste Manager

Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To seek approval to impose further water restrictions with immediate effect across all Kaipara District Water Supplies to Level 4 - the equivalent to those applied in the Drought Management Plan for Dargaville/Baylys Beach.

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

Dargaville and Baylys Beach water supply has been at Level 4 restriction since the triggers (flow levels in the River Kaihu) in the Drought Management Plan were reached. The impact on the community is that water can only be used for essential services only.

Maungaturoto has also been moved to Level 4 restriction in accordance with its Drought Management Plan.

Glinks Gully, Ruawai and Mangawhai water is sourced from bores. They do not have Drought Management Plans and delegation is with Council.

Advice from the Northland Regional Council on lower than normal stream flows and aquifer levels requires us to implement restrictions in these areas. For consistency with Dargaville and Maungaturoto these will be Level 4 restrictions or 'essential use only'.

Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga

That the Kaipara District Council:

- Approves the urgent implementation of district wide Water Restrictions in accordance with Clauses 1609.1 and 1609.5 of Kaipara District Council's General Bylaws 2008.
- Delegates authority to the Chief Executive and the Mayor to impose water restrictions in future on any reticulated water supply in Kaipara District in accordance with Clauses 1609.2 and 1609.5 of Kaipara District Council's General Bylaws 2008.

Context/Horopaki

Council provides water supply to communities through five schemes. The sources for the water include rivers, bores and a dam for Maungaturoto. The water schemes service townships as well as farms, industry and water carriers.

Council Water Supplies

Name of Scheme:	Number of connections:	Key users	Source	Current Status	Proposed Status
Dargaville & Baylys Beach	2782	Silver Fern, Farms, Water Carriers	River	Level 4 Restrictions	No Change
Maungaturoto	447	Fonterra, Farms	River + Bore + Storage	Level 4 Restrictions	No Change

Ruawai	251		Bore	Conserve	Level 4 Restrictions
Glinks Gully	85		Bore	Conserve	Level 4 Restrictions
Mangawhai	18	Campground	Bore	Conserve	Level 4 Restrictions

Due to persistent dry conditions, water restrictions have been implemented under Clauses 1609.1 and 1609.5 of Kaipara District Council's General Bylaws 2008 at Dargaville and Maungaturoto to ensure compliance with Council's drought management plan and resource consents authorising the take of raw water to supply the scheme.

The four levels of restrictions relate to

- Community Actions
 - Level 1 'Conserve Water'
 - Level 2 'No Sprinkler'
 - Level 3/4 'Essential Use only'
- Operational Actions
 - Levels include specific actions which meet consent and technical requirements.

Communities have responded well to the restrictions and have reduced their use. Similarly, major water users such as Silver Fern have worked collaboratively with Council to manage their needs. This has allowed water to be supplied to meet the communities needs in all locations.

Should the dry conditions persist, there is a risk that river and bore supplies will run too low and therefore actions now to reduce take from bores is required.

Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

The implementation of water restrictions and conservation at Dargaville / Baylys Beach has been necessary during four of the last six consecutive summers (inclusive of the current), with specific targeting of large water users during the 2012/13 drought to reduce consumption. The current Kaihu River flows are generally lower than they were during the 2012/13 drought at this time of the year.

Whilst the implementation of water restrictions will impact on the community, the general response received during the 2017 event was positive. The current Dargaville and Baylys water restrictions which include hose and sprinkler bans have been generally positively received. Council's Operations and Maintenance Contractor, Broadspectrum, has also embarked on an exercise to investigate and repair any water leaks in the network.

The Council is working with the community, water carriers, neighbouring Councils and Fonterra to augment the water supply to communities on roof water tanks.

From previous experience in a drought situation, the community has reacted favourably to the implementation of water restrictions. If a significant investment in a future water source was to be considered, community consultation would be essential to obtain their views on the financial implications and how this will affect them.

Having a consistent approach across the District will help in driving the right behaviours and achieving a longer supply of water.

Risks and mitigations

Risk	Mitigation
The Council is legally challenged by individuals and or businesses affected by water restrictions.	The Kaipara District Council General Bylaws 2008 allows the Council to impose water restrictions and the Council can delegate this power to the Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor.

Options

Option A – Council approves urgent implementation of district wide water restrictions, and delegates authority to the Chief Executive and the Mayor to impose further water restrictions in future, if required.

Option B – Council does not approve the urgent implementation of district wide water restrictions, or the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive and the Mayor to impose further water restrictions in future, if required.

Assessment of options

Option A – Council approval of the urgent implementation of district wide water restrictions endorses their status and mitigates a challenge of their legality. Similarly, the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive and the Mayor to impose further water restrictions in future, if required, reinforces compliance with Council's General Bylaws 2008.

Option B – If Council elects not to approve the urgent implementation of water restrictions, it would render the water restrictions unlawful. If Council elects not to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and the Mayor to impose further water restrictions in future, if required, this would likely delay the implementation of further water restrictions which would result in Council not complying with its resource consents and drought management plans.

The recommended option is Option A.

Significance and engagement/Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

The decisions or matters of this report do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda on the website.

Next steps/E whaiake nei

Staff will implement district-wide water restrictions and monitor water demand and supply, and update Council regularly on the water situation.