

Media Release

27 February 2020

High Level Water Restrictions in Place across Kaipara

At today's Council meeting (SUBS: 26 February 2020) a decision was made to move all Council supplied water networks to a Level 4 restriction.

This decision comes off the back of a period of dry weather, no rainfall, and no forecasted rain for the next 4 weeks. While the levels of water, and number of people connected vary across Kaipara, this decision brings the whole district into alignment.

Please reduce your water use immediately, at home and at work, to protect our water supply.

You must not:

- use sprinklers, soak hoses or handheld hoses to water your gardens or lawn at any time.
- Fill or top up swimming pools, spas or paddling pools
- Operate fountains
- Clean windows or paved areas with water
- Clean any type of vehicle (cars, motorbikes, boats, trucks, jet skis, bicycles) with water, except where cleaning is required as a result of an accident, fire, health hazard or other emergency, or to disinfect against didymo after boating in fresh waterways or lakes.

You may:

- Use recycled water from your shower or washing machine to water your garden
If you are required to clean your vehicle, please use a spray container, watering can or bucket filled directly from a tap.

These restrictions apply to all households and business on Council water supply.

Note:

'Level 4 Restrictions' are a technically assessed Level based on water flow readings, as part of our Drought Management Plan. The Levels of the Council's in Northland vary, which is why Level 4 in the Far North is a lot more extreme than it is in Kaipara.

Currently, thanks to the concerted efforts of our communities, we're managing to keep up with the supply of water, and as it continues, we know more and more people are getting on board with water conservation and restrictions.

According to the Northland Regional Council, river flows across the region continue to decline, with rivers now below drought flows at 93% of the council's flow monitoring stations. We are observing the lowest flows since records began in 1960, right across the region.

While there is lots of media coverage talking about the possibility of rain in the coming weeks, it will take a significant amount to bring us to a level of security, and to replenish what was a dry winter in 2019. The more work that is done now, the better prepared people will be for future events.

Some common questions around the Drought can be found at <https://www.kaipara.govt.nz/drought>

ENDS