Water restrictions in Hurunui District

The council continually monitors and manages the district's water resources. When conditions are dry and there is a risk of low river flows, affected water supplies will be required to conserve water. To manage this, Council has four levels of restrictions.

Levels of Water Restrictions:

Level 1: High Risk

Conserve water by using it sensibly. For example, only watering the garden in the evening and early morning to avoid evaporation; making sure every load in the washing machine is a full one and using the 'suds saver' feature if installed; only having three-minute showers etc. Click here for a list of other water-saving hints.

Level 2: Very High Risk

Only hand-held hoses, watering cans or buckets may be used to water gardens.

The use of sprinklers or irrigation systems are prohibited at all times. This includes rotary, pop-up, or any other types of watering systems.

It is prohibited to wash cars or fill pools.

Level 3: Extreme Risk

Only watering cans or buckets may be used to water gardens.

The use of hand-held hoses, sprinklers or irrigation systems are prohibited at all times. This includes rotary, pop-up, drippers, or any other types of watering systems. Owners of private wells in the restricted areas are directed to only water productive gardens every second day.

It is prohibited to wash cars or fill pools.

Level 4: Critical Risk

There is a complete ban on all watering systems. Water may only be used for domestic purposes such as drinking and washing and to provide drinking water for stock.

Please note: when water restrictions are in place, we are unable to provide emergency additional water supplies (top-ups) to water tanks on affected water schemes.

Penalties for Wasting Water

Please be aware that wasting water is a prosecutable offence under the Local Government Act. If you or someone on your property is wasting water then we may restrict the water supply to your land and buildings while we seek prosecution - which carries a fine of up to $5,000 upon conviction.