



Waimate District Council

Information for the users of the following
Rural Water Supplies

Cannington-Motukaika

Hook-Waituna

Otaio-Makikihi

Lower Waihao

Waihaorunga

Waikakahi

These water schemes use the Constant Flow/Restrictor system, where each consumer is supplied with a maximum predetermined quantity of water each day delivered to a tank on their property. To do this, water is trickled into the consumer's tanks over a 24 hour period through a sealed pre-set restrictor unit.

Water allocation is measured and charged in litres per day.

The standard unit is now 1500 litres per day, with possible 500 litres/day increments.

Storage

Water is supplied to a tank, usually sited on a high point, and gravity-fed to tanks or troughs through the consumer's own pipe system (should a consumer require a pressurised system it is their own responsibility to set up and maintain it).

The consumer shall supply the tank to receive the water and maintain it in a clean and watertight condition. The tank shall not be receiving water from any other source. Because of the possibility of unexpected interruptions to any water supply, all consumers are required to ensure that their tanks have sufficient storage capacity to ensure **three days' supply**.

Consumers are encouraged to install **water level indicators** in their tanks. This will allow the consumer to easily assess how much water they have in their tank.

Pipe Lines and Fittings

Consumers are responsible for the maintenance of all pipes and fittings inside their boundaries excluding scheme lines. Neglecting to repair any leaking tank, pipe, tap or fittings within their property after having received notice from Council is an offence. Council Water Supply Staff can assist with advice and hire of equipment for repair to tanks etc.

Property owners are requested not to plant trees within 3 metres of water scheme pipelines, and consult the Council staff before any digging or earth-moving operations if unsure of the location of the pipeline. Anyone causing any damage due to unauthorised interference (accidental or not) to any part of the supply pipes and fittings is liable to pay the whole cost of repair or restoration including wages for time spent in locating any defect or damage caused by such unauthorised interference.

Restrictors

It is the consumer's responsibility to protect restrictor units from frost damage and clean the filter; this is especially advisable after periods of heavy rainfall. New plugs and filters are supplied free from the District Council.

Wastage

Water is an increasingly precious commodity and all consumers are requested to guard against any undue wastage. Prompt reporting of suspected water leaks in scheme pipes will be appreciated.

Tampering with the System

Inside the restrictor unit is a jet that controls the volume of water able to be supplied into the consumer's storage tank.

Tampering with the restrictor to illegally obtain more water is an offence and will result in prosecution under the terms of the Local Government Act 1974. The Waimate District Council is empowered by legislation to undertake spot checks of user's restrictor units. Offenders are liable to pay a resetting charge of not less than \$1000 plus the cost of the estimated quantity of illegally tapped water.

Responsibilities

The Council is responsible for maintaining the supply system up to and including the ballcock in the consumers' tank, provided that:

- The ballcock is not located inside a dwelling, in which case it is the consumer's responsibility, and
- The ballcock is not located higher than 6m above the ground. In this case the Council is not obliged to maintain the ballcock but can assist by special arrangement.

While the Council will endeavour to provide a full water supply service, it does not guarantee continuous water supply or a fault free supply. Council also reserves the right to suspend or restrict any supply where it is considered reasonable or necessary to do so.

Application for Supply

Application for a new connection or for increase in supply shall be made on a Water Scheme Application Form available from the District Council or the Council Website. The approval of applications will be subject to feasibility as assessed by the Council's Water Engineer. Applications for temporary supply may be considered subject to feasibility.

Charges

The following charges apply to all users. The actual amount for each charge varies between each scheme.

- Capital Infrastructure Charge:** This is a one off fee recommended by the Committee and set by Council, payable before the connection is established. The charge covers the applicant's share of the cost of the already established main reticulation system.
- Connection Fee:** This is charged after the water is physically connected and covers the cost of connecting the consumer's tank to the scheme's main pipe. Cost is recovered on a strict time and materials basis.
- Water Rate:** This covers the day to day operation, maintenance and power cost of the scheme. This is rated for and depends on the volume of water allocated (measures in litres/day).

Committees

Each rural water scheme has its own elected Rural Water Scheme (RWS) Committee which represents scheme participants. The RWS Committees have the following functions:

- To review and recommend annual budgets and charges to Council
- To review scheme maintenance and major capital works projects
- To represent consumers concerns
- To review scheme expenditure
- To act as a link between Council and scheme consumers
- To assist Council by providing information for Bylaw enforcement

Enquiries / Fault-reporting

To make any enquiries or to report faults on Rural Water Schemes please call Waimate District Council on (03)689 8079.

For after hours faults, please phone the duty service technician directly at 0274 384 520, or call 0800 11 50 50 to use the pager service. For Cannington-Motukaika or Waihaorunga Schemes you should always contact a committee member first to report faults.

