

Level 2 water restrictions in Far North

Four council water supplies had Level 2 water restrictions applied on Monday 19 February as a precautionary measure to reduce demand and protect our water sources.

The ban on outdoor sprinklers or irrigation systems is in place for Kerikeri-Waipapa, Kaikohe-Ngāwhā, Paihia-Ōpua-Waitangi and Ōpononi-Ōmāpere. Water restriction levels for the remaining four Far North water sources will be reviewed regularly.

Ōmanaia-Rāwene had Level 2 restrictions applied in January to help preserve the Petaka Stream and this will remain unchanged for now.

The water restrictions are a response to high summer temperatures which have seen Northland characterised as 'dry' in a recent Drought Risk Assessment report by Northland Regional Council based on information from the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA Taihoro Nukurangi).

The decision also took into account that several council-operated water treatment plants are now operating round-the-clock to meet high water consumption, an anticipated drop in demand following Waitangi Day celebrations had not occurred, and that no substantial rainfall is forecast for the next few weeks.

As a result of the change to Level 2 water restrictions, Far North residents will notice large Save Water Now signs have been installed in key locations around Kerikeri, Kaikohe and Paihia. Billboards at Ōpononi and

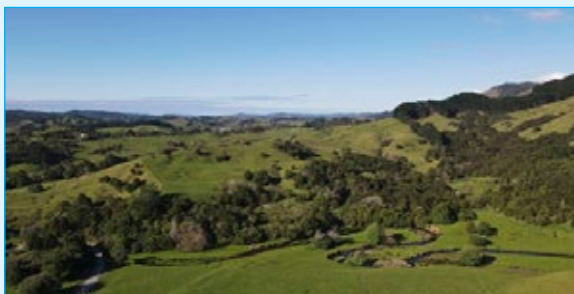


Level 2 water restrictions were applied to Kerikeri-Waipapa, Kaikohe-Ngāwhā, Paihia-Ōpua-Waitangi, and Ōpononi-Ōmāpere on Monday 19 February.

Ōmāpere, displaying the Be Water Wise water glass image, have also been updated to show Level 2 water restrictions are in place there.

Ōkaikau, Kaitāia and Kawakawa-Moerewa are currently at Level 1, where there is no limit to water use but customers should always use water sensibly.

The council's Water Shortage Management Committee will continue to monitor the demand on water sources and will meet regularly to review the status of all eight Far North water sources. For more information on any of our news stories visit fndc.govt.nz.



Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plans that incorporate climate change adaptations can apply for up to \$10,000 in funding.

Environment plan funding opens for iwi and hapū

Applications from iwi and hapū for funding to develop environmental management plans for their rohe are being sought by Te Hono, FNDC's Māori Development & Māori Relationships team.

An Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plan (IHMP) is a resource management plan developed by a hapū, iwi, or iwi authority. The plans are holistic documents setting out environmental and resource management planning issues, objectives, policies, plans, and/or methods of concern and interest to tāngata whenua in their rohe.

FNDC has allocated funds for this financial year for IHMPs that incorporate a climate change adaptation component. The total grant amount available for any single application is up to \$10,000.

Applications close 1 April 2024. For details and an application form email: tehonosupport@fndc.govt.nz.

isite wins good news for tourism

Two isite Visitor Information Centres in the Far North have hit the jackpot, each winning a national sales competition in separate group categories.

Kaitāia isite staff took the top award for the highest percentage increase in sales for December, while the Paihia team won January's top prize for sales figures in their group. Eftpos sales at isites include tickets for local attractions, adventure activities, tours and travel connections as well as crafts and produce by local artisans.

More than 50 branches of isite NZ compete against each other in groups based on similar turnover. Bay of Islands isite, based at Paihia, competes against top tourist destinations in Group 3 like Queenstown, Rotorua, and Wanaka. The Kaitāia isite, competes in the biggest group (Group 1) against 32 other locations for the top sales prize.

The national competition, run by isite NZ, awards a \$250 voucher to the winning team in each group.



Lisa and Nikola from Kaitāia isite with their winning voucher.



The council is already complying with new recycling guidelines.

Sorting recycling rules

Recycling in the Far North is 'business as usual' following new government rules introduced this month to standardise recycling across the country.

Since February 1, everyone in Aotearoa has been following identical rules around what items can and cannot be recycled by councils. FNDC is already complying with the new guidelines. So what can be recycled in the Far North district?

- Plastic containers numbered 1, 2, and 5 only
- Glass bottles and jars
- Clean aluminium and tin cans
- Flattened cardboard and paper.

What isn't allowed – no window, frosted, crystal or reinforced glass; and no coffee cups, plastic or wax-coated cardboard.