

Notice is given that an extraordinary meeting of Full Council will be held on:

Date: Thursday 28 February 2019

Time: 9.30 am

Meeting Room: Headingly Centre Venue: Headingly Lane

Richmond

# **Full Council**

# **AGENDA**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Mayor Kempthorne

**Deputy Mayor** Cr King **Councillors** Cr Brown

Cr Brown Cr McNamara
Cr Bryant Cr Ogilvie
Cr Canton Cr Sangster
Cr Greening Cr Tuffnell
Cr P Hawkes Cr Turley
Cr Maling Cr Wensley

(Quorum 7 members)

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# **AGENDA**

1	OPENING, WELCOME
2	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
	ommendation t apologies be accepted.
3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
4	LATE ITEMS
	Temporary Road Closure – Fire Response Parade
5	PRESENTATIONS
	Nil
6	REPORTS
	6.1 Drought Management - Next Steps5

## 6 REPORTS

#### 6.1 DROUGHT MANAGEMENT - NEXT STEPS

**Decision Required** 

Report To: Full Council

Meeting Date: 28 February 2019

**Report Author:** Dwayne Fletcher, Activity Planning Manager

Report Number: RCN19-02-1

## 1 Summary

- 1.1 The region is experiencing a significant drought in most areas except the Motueka Plains and the Buller and even these areas are also showing signs of the dry conditions. The Council has imposed water shortage directions in most areas ranging from Stage 1 cuts of 20% to cease takes. In most of the Waimea Plains, water users face a 65% cut in their permitted takes.
- 1.2 Council staff are actively managing the water resource to keep rivers hydrated and to prevent salt water intrusion. Specific areas of concern, apart from those areas already at cease-take are the Waimea's, including the Wai-iti zone and Golden Bay. Without any appreciable rain, conditions will only worsen.
- 1.3 In the absence of rain the prospect of moving to more severe restrictions is likely. The next stage for the Waimea's, which is the source of the Brightwater, Richmond, Redwood Valley and Mapua community supplies, is an 80% cut and then a cease take. Water demand and salinity levels will determine these moves. The Council, as community water supplier, and growers are making plans for the worst case.
- 1.4 The economic consequences of this drought should not be underestimated or downplayed. The Ministry of Primary Industries has already declared the Tasman District to be subject to an adverse weather event. These impacts will have consequences for the whole supply chain on workers, processors, storage and transport companies, and the port. The impacts will only magnify if the drought continues and further restrictions are necessary.
- 1.5 While the Council's water supplies are under rationing and we face the prospect of further cuts, they are also subject to other risks such as salt-water contamination or source water supplies becoming inadequate or unreliable. The Council needs to consider what further restrictions and actions it will take in response to these issues.
- 1.6 To date, restrictions have been imposed by the Engineering Services Manager under delegated authority. However, if and when rationing or other water supply risks escalate, staff consider that decisions about how the Council responds need to be made by the Full Council.
- 1.7 This report proposes the following responses for approval by the Council:

- 1.7.1 In response to rationing on the Waimea Plains Delta Zone that the following restrictions apply (based on the draft water restrictions protocol consulted on last year but yet to be finalised):
  - The current water restrictions remain in force if the Council's abstraction limits are between 30%-35% of our consents;
  - The Council also bans the topping up of community pools and requires business water use cuts of between 30% and 50% (depending on the extent of rationing) if:
    - 1 The Council's abstraction limits are between 20%-29% of our consents; or
    - 2 Nelson's water supply to Tasman falls below 500 m<sup>3</sup> per day;
  - The Council bans all water uses except for essential human and animal needs and firefighting and a limit of 125 litres per person per day for dwellings, if a cease take order applies to the Council water supplies;
  - The 88 Valley, Wakefield, Brightwater, Redwood, Richmond and Mapua water supplies maintain restriction parity with the other water schemes on the Waimea Plains unless their water supplies are compromised;
  - The Council maintains a fully charged pipe network with all properties still receiving on-demand supply (for urban) and restricted supply (for rural) throughout all stages of rationing, unless the source water for a scheme is compromised;
  - If the source of water for a scheme is compromised, the Council may cease normal supply to individual properties for all or part of a scheme and instead provide water via distribution points;
- 1.8 Staff recommend that the Council considers public feedback on the above proposals before making its final decision on 7 March 2019 to enable the Council to comply with its decision-making obligations under the Local Government Act 2002. To enable this to occur quickly, a public meeting is being held on 6 March 2019. At this meeting Council staff will:
  - Provide information on the current situation and risks, the forecasts and how these are likely to affect the Council's water supplies; and
  - Outline the Council's proposed response in the event further rationing is required, a
    cease-take is ordered, or water sources become unreliable or contaminated with salt
    water; and
  - Provide further opportunity for community feedback on the Council's proposed responses before the Council makes its final decisions.
- 1.9 A summary of that feedback will be provided to an Extraordinary Council meeting on 7 March 2019 and the Council will be requested to make final decisions, taking into account that feedback alongside other feedback obtained through other channels.

## 2 Draft Resolution

#### That the Full Council:

- 1. receives the Drought Management Next Steps report, RCN19-02-01; and
- 2. agrees to propose the following in response to rationing on the Waimea Plains Delta Zone:
  - The current water restrictions remain in force if Council's abstraction limits are between 30% - 35% of our consents;
  - The Council also bans the topping up of community swimming pools and requires business water use cuts of between 30% and 50% (depending on the extent of rationing) if:
    - The Council's abstraction limits are between 20% 29% of our consents; or
    - Nelson's water supply to Tasman falls below 500 m<sup>3</sup> per day;
  - If a cease take order applies to the Council's water supplies, the Council:
    - bans all use of the public water supply except that needed for ordinary domestic and food preparation use (as defined by the Health Act 1956) and sanitary needs, animal welfare and fire-fighting; and
    - sets a maximum water use entitlement of 125 litres per day per person for dwellings (excluding water used for fire-fighting).
- agrees to propose that the 88 Valley, Wakefield, Brightwater, Redwood, Richmond and Mapua/Ruby Bay water supplies maintain restriction parity with the other water schemes on the Waimea Plains unless their source water supplies are compromised; and
- 4. agrees that the Council maintains a fully charged pipe network with all properties still receiving on-demand supply (for urban) and restricted supply (for rural and rural extensions) throughout all stages of rationing, unless the source water for a scheme is compromised; and
- 5. agrees that if the source of water for a scheme is compromised, the Council may cease normal supply to individual properties for all or part of a scheme and instead provide water via distribution points; and
- agrees that the Council will seek and consider feedback on the above proposals from the public, including via a public meeting next week, before making its final decision on 7 March 2019 and that this engagement is appropriate and practical given the circumstances; and
- agrees to delegate authority to restrict the supply of water to land or buildings under section 193 of the Local Government Act 2002 to the Engineering Services Manager; and
- 8. agrees to delegate the authority to cease normal supply to individual properties for all or part of a water scheme to the Engineering Service Manager, as provided for by sections 648 of the Local Government Act 1974 and 69S of the Health Act 1954.

# 3 Purpose of the Report

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to:
  - Provide information to the Council on the current drought and how it is managing water abstraction consents (including the Council's own consents); and
  - Propose responses to rationing and other risks to the urban and rural water schemes, to be finalised following public feedback.

# 4 Background and Discussion

# **Drought conditions and impacts**

4.1 The region is currently experiencing a major drought in most areas except the Motueka Plains and the Buller, even though these areas are also showing signs of the dry conditions. The Council has imposed water shortage directions in most areas ranging from Stage 1 cuts of 20% to cease takes. In most of the Waimea Plains water users face a 65% cut in their permitted takes (see Table 1).

Table 1: Water Restrictions in force as at 4 March 2019

Water Management Zone	Restrictions
Moutere Surface, Powley Creek, Rainy, Dovedale, and Motupiko	Cease take
Upper Catchment, Reservoir, Waimea West, Delta, Upper Confined Aquifer and Golden Hills	Stage 4, a 65% cut
Lower Confined, Hope Gravel, Wangapeka, Wai-iti, Wai-iti Dam Service, Tapawera, Glen Rae, Tadmor, Baton, Stanley Brook, Aorere and Takaka*	Stage 2, a 35% cut
Moutere Western Groundwater and Moutere Eastern Groundwater	Stage 1, a 20% cut
Riuwaka and Little Sydney flow sharing	

<sup>\*</sup> those consent holders with specific conditions requiring greater restrictions in the Takaka zone must comply with their consent conditions

4.2 We are actively managing the water resource to keep rivers hydrated and to prevent salt water intrusion. Specific areas of concern, apart from those areas already at cease take, are the Waimea's, including the Wai-iti zone and Golden Bay. Without any appreciable rain, conditions will only worsen. Anecdotally, we know that farmers have already made decisions to turn water off to some paddocks and crops and some harvesting is commencing earlier than preferred. Water sharing arrangements are in place to help disperse an ever-diminishing supply of water. The installation of a bund across the lower Waimea has helped

- in keeping salt levels stable especially during the recent "king" tides but has achieved its maximum operating efficiency.
- 4.3 In the absence of rain, the prospect of moving to more severe restrictions is likely. The next stage for the Waimea's, which is the source of the Brightwater, Richmond, Redwood Valley, and Mapua community supplies, is an 80% cut and then a cease take. Water demand and salinity levels will determine these moves. The Council as community water supplier and growers are making plans for the worst case.
- 4.4 The economic consequences of this drought should not be underestimated or downplayed. The Ministry of Primary Industries has already declared the Tasman District to be subject to an adverse weather event. These impacts will have consequences for the whole supply chain - on workers, processors, storage and transport companies and the port. The impacts will only magnify if the drought continues and further restrictions are necessary.

## Impact on Council's Water Schemes

- The Council's water supplies are under rationing and face the prospect of further cuts as outlined above. We represent around 18% of water extraction on the Waimea Plains.
- 4.6 All of our schemes in the Waimea Plains and in Dovedale are under restrictions under Council's Public Water Supply Bylaw 2016. The Council is publicising the restrictions via a range of media and have also been actively enforcing the restrictions with letter drops and personal visits. Repeat offenders have been warned that their supply will be restricted.
- 4.7 As a result of this and other initiatives, the urban schemes show downward trends overall, although Wakefield and Brightwater data also shows the impacts of providing firefighting supply. Excluding the supply from Nelson, it appears our communities have reduced water use by around 20% compared to normal water demand for this time of year. The rural schemes show a slightly flatter trend, reflecting the greater use of these schemes for supplying stock water. Our water abstraction trends versus ration limits for various schemes are included in Attachment 1.
- During this drought, the Council's water supplies are also subject to other risks, such as saltwater contamination, or its source becoming inadequate or unreliable. For example:
  - Wakefield's source water is at present reliant on water released from the Wai-Iti Dam, which has an estimated 21 days' supply left at present flow levels.
  - The 88 Valley and Dovedale schemes are reliant on small creeks that have reducing flows.
  - The Waimea (Richmond and Mapua) and Richmond (lower confined) schemes are at risks of salt-water contamination if their respective aguifers fall too low.
  - Nelson City Council may reconsider its supply of water to Richmond if the drought progresses and the Maitai Dam levels fall.
- The Council needs to consider what further restrictions and actions it will take in response to 4.9 these issues.
- 4.10 To date, restrictions have been imposed by the Engineering Services Manager under delegated authority. However, if and when rationing or other water supply risks escalate, staff consider that decisions about how we respond need to be made by the Full Council.

- 4.11 Staff recommend using the draft water restrictions protocol that it consulted with the community in 2018 as a guideline for imposing further restrictions. Specifically, staff recommend the following in response to rationing on the Waimea Plains delta zone:
  - The current water restrictions remain in force if the Council's abstraction limits are between 30% 35% of our consents;
  - The Council also bans the topping up of community swimming pools and requires business water use cuts of between 30% and 50% (depending on the extent of rationing) if:
    - The Council's abstraction limits are between 20% 29% of our consents; or
    - Nelson's water supply to Tasman falls below 500 m³ per day;
  - If a cease take order applies to the Council's water supplies, the Council:
    - bans all use of the public water supply except that needed for ordinary domestic and food preparation use (as defined by the Health Act 1956) and sanitary needs, animal welfare water and fire-fighting; and
    - sets a maximum water use entitlement of 125 litres per day per person for dwellings (excluding water used for fire-fighting).
- 4.12 Domestic and food preparation under the Health Act 1956 use means use for:
  - human consumption;
  - preparing food or drink for human consumption;
  - preparing or processing products ultimately intended for human consumption;
  - washing utensils used for preparing, storing, or serving food or drink for human consumption;
  - washing utensils used by people for eating or drinking;
  - human oral hygiene.
- 4.13 The above recommendations are based on the minimum imposition on our community necessary for the Council to comply with its consent limits given the various consents, our ability to allocation share, the continuation of the supply of 1,200-1,600 m³ per day from Nelson City Council, and the requirements of the Health Act 1956.
- 4.14 The Council also has a significant media and communications campaign underway encouraging all business and residents to save as much as they can, regardless of what restrictions apply. This will continue and escalate if needed in response to further rationing or other risks to source water supplies.
- 4.15 Destocking will also be necessary for landowners on rural schemes to achieve water demand reductions. The bylaw does not allow the Council to restrict or prohibit the use of restricted flow supplies for stock drinking water. To date, the Council has instead relied on advising people to destock and stressing the owner's primary responsibility is the welfare of their animals.

#### **Harmonisation of Restrictions**

4.16 Staff also recommend that the 88 valley, Wakefield, Brightwater, Redwood, Richmond and Mapua water supplies maintain restriction parity with the other water schemes on the

- Waimea Plains (unless their water sources are compromised). While the schemes face potentially different rationing rates, this is not the only factor the Council should take into account when setting restrictions.
- 4.17 The impact of rationing depends on how much of a scheme's consent is normally used, and what opportunities the Council has to share allocations or water between schemes. Most of the major schemes on the Waimea face a degree of shared rationing and water supply risk as a result. The rationing on some schemes also does not represent all of the risks facing that scheme, as noted earlier.
- 4.18 Finally, common restrictions aid our community in understanding what restrictions apply.
- 4.19 The main alternative to this option is to have individual restrictions finely tuned to the individual schemes. This is likely to be more confusing for the public, more costly and difficult to administer and it does not reflect the shared risks faced by many of the schemes.

### **Supply Continuity**

- 4.20 The Council needs to consider how it will respond to a cease-take order that limits the Council's water supply to 125 litres per person per day. For most schemes, this will limit water supply to around 20% of normal demand (not consent), i.e. an 80% reduction. As noted, business use of water that is not for essential human needs will be prohibited. This presents a huge challenge for our community and for the Council.
- 4.21 The Local Government Act 1974 and 2002, and the Health Act 1956 charge the Council with maintaining normal supply to properties connected to its schemes except for repairs, severe droughts and emergencies.
- 4.22 The Council is a drinking water supplier subject to the drinking water provisions in Part 2A of the Health Act 1956. It also provides water services for the purposes of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 4.23 The Council has a duty to take all practicable steps to maintain an adequate supply of drinking water to the point of supply at each premises that it supplies with drinking water (s.69S Health Act 1956). The Council also has an obligation to continue to provide drinking water services under s 130 (2) Local Government Act 2002. However, the Council can stop the supply of drinking water to properties in an emergency (s69S Health Act 1956).
- 4.24 The Council is obliged to keep the pipes to which fire hydrants are attached charged with water. However, the Council is excused from this requirement in an unusual drought or water shortage (section 648 Local Government Act 1974).
- 4.25 In applying these provisions, staff consider that the Council is obliged to maintain a fully charged pipe network with all properties still receiving on-demand supply (for urban) and restricted supply (for rural) throughout all stages of rationing while source water is still available.
- 4.26 However, in doing so, the Council may find it difficult to comply with the cease take rationing order. We are dependent on the behavior of 20,000+ customers who will still have an uninterrupted supply and whose business may be dependent on that supply to operate. When they open the tap, water will flow.
- 4.27 Staff have considered an option to read meters weekly to monitor use and enforce individual property limits. However, we estimate that a 3-4 week lead-in period will be required, limiting its usefulness initially. It will also require 15-20 full time staff and cost around \$40,000-\$50,000 per week, plus the cost of enforcement. Around \$100,000 will be spent before

- monitoring could actually start. Consequently, staff are not actively pursuing this, although it remains an option if the drought is prolonged.
- 4.28 Staff do consider that ceasing normal supply to individual properties for all or part of a scheme is an option that needs be available to the Council should the source of water for a scheme be compromised. In these cases, the Council will instead provide water via distribution points. This is a real prospect, if this drought is prolonged. Staff are currently developing contingency plans.

## **Delegations**

4.29 To remove any ambiguity about the Engineering Services Manager's authority to restrict water supply to land or buildings or cease normal supply to all or part of a network, specific delegations are sought in this report.

# 5 Options

- 5.1 The options available to Council for imposing further restrictions are to:
  - Option 1 Impose further restrictions as proposed in this report.
  - Option 2 Focusing further restrictions on household and personal use of water.
  - Option 3 Focusing further restriction on business (as proposed), but apply different restriction levels to specific industries or sectors.
- 5.2 A brief summary of the pro and cons for each options is discussed below.

Option	Description	Pros	Cons	Comment
Restrictions as proposed	Largely seeking further water savings via universal and uniform cuts to business use	Business water use accounts for approximately 50% of water use overall, so business cuts are inevitable at the rationing limits faced by the Council.	Ability to police water use restrictions inside dwellings extremely limited  Will have major impact on economy	At cease take, only residential and business water use that complies with the definition of essential human needs is permitted. For example, an accounting firm that only uses water for drinking and sanitation, or a hospital.
		Provides logical escalation in restrictions.		
		Treats all businesses on Council schemes in a similar way.		
		Council has already consulted on similar restrictions under the draft water restrictions protocol.		
Focus further restrictions on households	Impose further restrictions on personal use of water instead of further	Minimises impact on economy	Business water use accounts for approximately 50% of water use overall, so business cuts are inevitable at the	Per capita water use is around 250 litres per person per day normally. A 50% cut in this results in 125 litres per person per day, which is the TRMP recommended supply for essential human health and sanitation. At full

Option	Description	Pros	Cons	Comment
Орион	restrictions on business	1103	rationing limits faced by the Council.  At cease take, water use must be preserved for essential human needs.  Ability to police water use restrictions inside dwellings extremely limited	cease take, the Council is limited to this volume of water so no water can therefore be available for business that involves anything more than drinking water, food preparation, and sanitation for people.
3. Focus further restrictions on business but apply different restriction levels to specific industries or sectors	Selectively impose further restrictions on specific businesses or industries	Could be used to minimise impact on economy or isolate economic impact of restrictions.	Unlikely to work in practice and high risk. Highly subjective judgments around the merit of different sectors are likely to be flawed and subject to bias.  Insufficient time to undertake proper economic assessment to determine 'winners' and 'losers'	

5.3 On balance, staff recommend the first option.

# 6 Strategy and Risks

- 6.1 The drought presents a major risk to our community wellbeing and economy. The impacts will be especially felt throughout the primary sector, and by businesses connected to the Council's water schemes. These impacts are unavoidable if the risks to the river aquifers and aquatic life are to be avoided or mitigated. The impacts on our community will grow if further rationing and restrictions are imposed.
- 6.2 The drought also poses a threat to the supply of source water for some schemes, as outlined earlier.
- 6.3 The proposed restrictions are in line with the draft restrictions protocol which has been consulted on previously, but is yet to be finalised. The baseline for assessing business reductions was one of the sticking points in that process. Under the current restrictions, staff have set baselines with most of the large water users based on previous years' data.
- 6.4 Despite the restrictions proposed in this report, there is a very real risk that the Council may not comply with all the rationing limits on all its consents. The tools available to the Council to enforce the restrictions are limited and we are dependent on the actions of 20,000+ customers to ensure we comply with our rationing limits. Consequently, we are as focused on influencing behavior via media and other channels as we are on enforcement.

# 7 Policy / Legal Requirements / Plan

- 7.1 The duty to maintain an adequate supply of drinking water means the Council must supply the minimum amount of water needed for domestic and food preparation use and sanitary needs. Domestic use means use for human consumption, preparing food and drink, preparing or processing products for human consumption, washing eating or drinking utensils and human oral hygiene.
- 7.2 The Council has the power to impose restrictions on the use of the drinking water supply under clause 27 of the Public Water Supply Bylaw 2016.
- 7.3 The Council must comply with the decision-making principles in Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 when making a decision under the Bylaw to restrict the use of drinking water. That includes the requirement to give consideration to the views and preferences of persons likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in the matter (section 78 LGA).
- 7.4 Section 79 of the LGA gives the Council the discretion to make judgments about how to comply with section 78. There is a high degree of significance attached to a decision to restrict the use of water at all premises that the Council supplies with drinking water except for the use of water for domestic and food preparation use, sanitary needs and animal drinking water. Consequently, staff recommend that the Council seeks feedback on the water restrictions proposed in this report, at a public meeting to be held on 6 March 2019.
- 7.5 The Council has the power to restrict the supply of drinking water to a person's land or building if that person fails to comply. The Council has the power to stop the supply of drinking water to the point of supply for period of more than eight (8) hours in an emergency provided the Council notifies the Medical Officer of Health of the reasons for the interruption within 24 hours and takes practicable steps to advise the persons affected by the stoppage.
- 7.6 If the Council stops the supply of water to the point of supply in an emergency then the Council can provide water at distribution points by relying on its power of general competence under section 12 of the Local Government Act 2002 and the fact that there is no provision that prohibits the Council as a water supplier from providing water during this emergency.

## 8 Consideration of Financial or Budgetary Implications

- 8.1 The cost of Council of imposing and managing restrictions to date is estimated to be around \$90,000 at present, largely borne by the urban water account. Most of these cost are operating expenditure. The Council will continue to incur costs until the drought breaks.
- 8.2 The Council will also receive less revenue from the urban supplies due to lower water demand and the need to offset water supplied from Nelson City Council against the water we supply Nelson City properties. Staff do not have an estimate of the impact of these costs to date.
- 8.3 As noted earlier, the wider cost to the community and local economy is likely to be significant.

# 9 Significance and Engagement

- 9.1 Staff consider that the proposed plan for dealing with further rationing and other risks to our water sources will be of high public interest. Despite the pressing nature of the risks, the Council needs to seek and consider feedback from the community before making its final decisions about how to manage them. This is to enable the Council to comply with its decision-making obligations under the Local Government Act 2002.
- 9.2 To enable this to occur quickly, a public meeting is being held on 6 March 2019. At this meeting Council staff will:
  - Provide information on the current situation and risks, the weather forecasts, and how these are likely to affect Council water supplies; and
  - Outline the Council's proposed response in the event further rationing is required, a
    cease take is ordered, or water sources become unreliable or contaminated with salt
    water; and
  - Provide an opportunity for community feedback on the Council's proposed responses before the Council makes its final decisions.
- 9.3 A summary of that feedback will be provided to an Extraordinary Council meeting on 7 March 2019 and the Council will be requested to make final decisions, taking into account that feedback.
- 9.4 The Council also considered similar restrictions under the draft water restrictions protocol in 2018 as part of a reviewing the Public Water Supply Bylaw. Though that process has yet to conclude, the Council can also take into account feedback provided by the public on that process when making its final decision.

Issue	Level of Significance	Explanation of Assessment
Is there a high level of public interest, or is the decision likely to be controversial?	High	The impact of the restrictions will have a major impact on the wellbeing of our community and the local economy. While there is some choice about what sectors to target, a significant impact is unavoidable if more severe rationing is imposed on the Council.
Is there a significant impact arising from duration of the effects from the decision?	Medium	While the duration will probably be limited to weeks or months, the impact is significant.
Does the decision relate to a strategic asset? (refer Significance and Engagement Policy for list of strategic assets)	Yes	Yes. The decision relates to the large parts of our water reticulation system as listed in the Significance and Engagement policy.
Does the decision create a substantial change in the level of service provided by the Council?	No	No permanent change in any levels of service are proposed. Complying with resource consents is a key LOS that the proposals in this report seek to ensure we meet. Firefighting LOS will also be preserved in all but the most severe circumstances. The Council's Water Supply Bylaw 2016 does foreshadow that restrictions may apply and does not guarantee uninterrupted continuity of supply. However, it is likely customer satisfaction with Council's water supply will fall as a result of severe restrictions.

## 10 Conclusion

- 10.1 The Council is facing an increasing range of challenges to its water supplies as result of the drought and it needs to decide how best it intends to manage these. The recommended measure outlined in this report provide a sound basis for staff to manage through the drought should rationing or other risks escalate.
- 10.2 The restrictions proposed essentially seek further reductions in water demand by requiring further cuts in business use until at a cease take, water is only available for essential human needs, animal welfare, and firefighting. This is inevitable given business operations account for 50% of the Council's water demand. Existing water use restrictions on residential customers will continue and the Council will continue to encourage water use reductions in every possible way to householders.
- 10.3 The proposed restrictions will not be popular with the community, especially business and people whose employment is threatened by the restrictions. People may also be alarmed at the prospect of normal water supply being disrupted.
- 10.4 However, these impacts are unavoidable if the risks to our rivers and aquifers are to be avoided or mitigated, or if one or more of our source water supplies is compromised.
- 10.5 The Council needs to seek and consider feedback on these plans before finalising them. Because several of the challenges are pressing, this needs to occur in a compressed timeframe. The public meeting is proposed as practical way of providing that feedback in short order.

# 11 Next Steps / Timeline

- 11.1 Assuming the Council approves the draft resolutions, staff will hold and advertise the public meeting scheduled for 6 March 2019. Councillors are invited to attend that meeting to hear feedback first-hand.
- 11.2 A summary of that feedback will be collated that night and provided to an Extraordinary Council meeting on 7 March 2019. Staff will outline any recommend changes to the proposed plan to the Council at that meeting and the Council will be requested to make its final decisions, taking into account that feedback.
- 11.3 Staff are very aware this is a highly compressed timeframe. However, it is possible that stage 5 restrictions will start applying to the Council water supplies as early as 11 March 2019. The Council needs to communicate any new restrictions as soon as possible so people and businesses can make and put into effect plans based on the new restrictions.

### 12 Attachments

1. Waimea Daily Water Use since last reading as at 27 February 2019

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