



STAFF REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Subcommittee

FROM: Daryl Page, Compliance Officer

REFERENCE: C653

SUBJECT: **END OF SEASON WATER METERING REPORT 2005 / 2006 - REPORT EP06/08/08** - Report prepared for 2 August 2006 Meeting

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Council staff Mandy Tomlinson, Neil Tyson, Joseph Thomas, Rose Smith, and Heather Stanton (on contract) for their input into the 2005 / 2006 water metering project.

2. INTRODUCTION

This report follows EP06/05/22 which provided a summary of compliance monitoring during the 2005 /2006 irrigation season and was presented to the Environment and Planning Subcommittee meeting on 30 May 2006. In accordance with resolution EP06/05/34, the purpose of this report is to present an overview of the water metering project administration for the 2005 / 2006 irrigation season. Both reports collectively provide a full account of the 2005 /2006 water meter season.

3. SUMMARY

Drought conditions prevailed during the 2005 / 2006 summer season and resulted in an increased level of communication (and education) to water users about water rationing.

The number of consents administered under the water metering project continues to increase and consideration to increased staff resources will be required.

Some consideration should be given to increasing the annual charge on water permit holders so the costs of the project are met more directly by water users.

A (new) end of season summary report has been sent to consent holders.

Administration and monitoring of the 2005 / 2006 water metering project has been seen as a success.

4. WEATHER PATTERNS – 2005 / 2006 SEASON

The start of the water meter project (November 2005) coincided with the fourth consecutive month where the district had received less than average rainfall. The very dry conditions meant that river and groundwater levels were extremely low for this time of year. The dry conditions continued into December, however several days of rain during the middle of the month provided some relief.

The most noticeable deficits in groundwater levels were seen in January 2006. Both the Waimea and Motueka areas were very low. However, and much like December, a few days of rain in January provided some relief and was sufficient to temporarily lift some of the water restrictions. Unfortunately, further dry conditions in February and March 2006, a demand on already low groundwater levels, and very little rainfall meant the drought continued to worsen.

While the dry weather continued into March 2006, particularly in Golden Bay and the Waimea Plains, the slightly cooler weather and a reducing irrigation demand provided partial relief and some stability in river flows and aquifer storage.

Finally, at the end of April 2006, there could be no doubt that the drought conditions had been broken. Heavy rain fell around Anzac day and more than doubled the typical monthly rainfall totals, bringing them to the highest April rainfall on record for some areas.

5. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION – DURING A WATER SHORTAGE

Water Shortage Direction

Water rationing was introduced from 7 November 2005 – just one week into the start of the irrigation season. Included with report EP06/05/22 was the 2005 /2006 pattern of water rationing and advice that the Dry Weather Taskforce (DWTF) met on 18 occasions and water rationing was in place for 16 weeks of the 25 week season.

During times of a water shortage and in addition to any consent condition about rationing, Council may pursuant to Section 329 of the Resource Management Act, issue a water shortage direction in respect to the taking, use, damming or diversion of water. The direction only lasts for 14 days unless amended or renewed. As such, the notice became a regular feature in Council's Newsline Update section in the Saturday edition of the Nelson Mail. Appendix 1 provides an example of a Water Shortage Direction.

Publicity

Concurrent with DWTF decisions, Media Statements were a regular feature of the 2005 / 2006 season. A weekly Water Report was also a feature of the Newsline Update section in the Saturday edition of the Nelson Mail and on Council's website. Appendix 2 and 3 provides an example of a Media Statement and a Water Report respectively.

Rationing Letters

Appendix 4 provides a summary of the letters sent to water users about water rationing. While the procedure in merging the letter with the relevant water user details in the water metering database has been improved, the release of these letters remains a time consuming aspect. Appendix 5 provides an example of a rationing letter.

General

Collectively, the administrative tasks required during a period of water shortage placed further constraints on the ability of (compliance) staff to proactively and consistently monitor the water metering project. Let's hope for a bit more rain this coming season!

6. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION – GENERAL

Water Metering Requirement

Water metering has expanded steadily within Tasman District since it was first introduced for 20 users of the Lower Confined Aquifer in the 1980's. In the 2005 / 2006 season, 560 water meters required monitoring.

Some water management zones where metering has been identified, continue to have a 'deferred' status. The main reason for this deferred status has been the lack of a clear mandate from management and reluctance by affected staff to take on the additional workload. Notwithstanding this, some implementation work for the Upper Motueka zones has commenced. Neil Tyson and Glenn Stevens have commenced a process by promoting bulk tendering for meters and assisting users to identify the best location and method of metering for their individual situation. The Upper Motueka zones will add approx 80 consents to the water metering database for the 2006 / 2007 season.

The staff resource required in firstly implementing water metering to new zones and then maintaining the project database, can be significant. Limited resources in the past have meant priorities have had to be established in respect to certain zones. For example and in respect to the 2005 /2006 season, the majority of monitoring occurred in the Waimea Plains due to the drought conditions.

It follows that with the addition of the Upper Motueka consents in the 2006 / 2007 season and if water metering was fully implemented in all identified zones in the future, the project will require more than the current one full time staff member and a temporary administrative support person (student) in order to monitor activity effectively.

Appendix 6 shows the status of water metering for zones where water metering has been required.

Pre-season Letter

After first completing an audit between Council's consents database (NCS) and the stand alone water meter database (WCM) to ensure both databases reflect each other, the pre-season letter dated 14 October 2005 was sent to all consent holders subject to water metering. Appendix 7 provides a copy of the pre-season letter.

Pre printed meter reading return cards were sent out with the pre-season letter. The template for these was printed off site and Council data was then copied onto the cards by Council staff. The production of the return cards and the mail out of the pre-season letter again proved to be a time consuming process.

Having the cards fully printed and mailed out (with the pre season letter) off site is being considered for the 2006 / 2007 season. The cost (both financially and in staff resources) of this pre season administrative task could also be reduced in the future as the number of return cards will not be as high as previous seasons. An increasing number of water users are sending their returns by email and the ability to enter readings via Council's website will also be available this coming season. The intention is to communicate with all water users about the method of their future returns before October 2006.

Budget

It was identified in last years report that the funding of water metering needed a review to ensure costs represented the work completed and a greater proportion of the cost is borne by the water user and not the general rate (\$31863 in the 04/05 year).

Staff time within various work outputs has been more transparent and there was a 74% recovery of enforcement costs. However, the majority of project costs are theoretically met by an appropriation of the annual (administration) charge levied on water permits holders (\$43,000) and an appropriation from the general rate (\$42,560) and overall staff cost of the project exceeded income by \$26,655. To ensure project costs are met more directly by water users, a future increase in the annual charge levied on consent holders will need to be considered.

Appendix 8 provides a summary of the 2005 / 2006 Compliance Monitoring Water budget.

End of Season Summary to Consent Holders

An end of season summary has been sent to consent holders subject to water meter (some are still to be released). The summary presents in graph form a users individual consumption record and that of their water management zone. Also included was a narrative about monitoring outcomes. Appendix 9, 10 and 11 provides examples of the Waimea Plains and the Motueka – Moutere end of season summary.

7. UPDATE ON COMPLIANCE/ENFORCEMENT

It is noted that report EP06/05/22 highlighted compliance work was necessary in respect to takes from the Takaka River and that the consideration of enforcement action had yet to be done. This task has now been completed and two (representative sample) infringement fines have been issued for taking water when the consent holder was not entitled to do so.

8. GENERAL DISCUSSION

In saying that project administration and monitoring has been seen as a success during the 2005 / 2006 season, there are still areas that can be enhanced and this work will be ongoing. Much of this work is of a procedural related nature and it is hoped to complete this during the 'off season' i.e. by November 2006.

Outside of refinements to the database to aid monitoring functions and reporting mechanisms, the completion of a procedures manual remains 'a work in progress'.

9. RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council receive this report.
2. That Council notes that the water metering project will require more than the current one full time staff member and a temporary administrative support person in the future.
3. That Council notes the need for a review of the annual charge on water permit holders for future years.

Daryl Page
Compliance Officer

WATER RESTRICTIONS REDUCED

Water Shortage Direction under Section 329 of the Resource Management Act 1991

The Tasman District Council considers that there is a serious temporary shortage of water in the following zones and the taking/use of water is to be restricted. Restricted use is necessary to manage the water resource fairly, to reduce the risk of seawater intrusion into coastal aquifers, and minimise adverse effects of reducing river flows.

A. To holders of consents to take water from the following zones in the Waimea Plains:

Upper Catchments, Reservoir, Waimea West, Golden Hills, Delta, and Upper Confined Aquifer

The Tasman District Council directs everyone in the zones mentioned above that water rationing is now reduced to Stage 1 which is a 20% cut from authorised weekly usage. This is effective immediately.

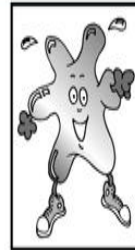
B. To holders of consents to take water from the Waimea Lower Confined Aquifer

The Tasman District Council directs everyone in the zone mentioned above that Stage 1 rationing which is a 20% cut from authorised weekly usage, continues after being introduced as of Monday 16 January 2006.

Council reminds all affected consent holders (including the Wai-iti zone) that they are required to submit their weekly readings on a weekly basis. Council encourages all users to make returns by email to meterreturns@tdc.govt.nz.

C. To all domestic users of water taken from private wells and other natural sources in all the above mentioned rationed zones:

Users are advised that the taking and use of water under Council's permitted activity rule is restricted and there shall be no watering of lawns or other grass or decorative plants. Efficient watering of household vegetable gardens may continue every second day provided it is with a hand held hose.



D. To users of Councils Urban water supplies in Richmond, Mapua - Ruby Bay, Hope, Brightwater and Wakefield and to users of the rural schemes Eight-eight Valley, Redwoods Valley and the Dovedale schemes.

Hosing/sprinkler restrictions are reintroduced for all the above urban areas. Hosing/sprinkler restrictions also apply for the above rural water supplies.

Residents are reminded that hand held hosing only is permitted on odd and even calendar days corresponding to the house street number to water productive gardens. Owners of private wells in these areas are reminded that they can only take for household use and domestic productive gardens up to a maximum of 5 cubic metres daily.

The position will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Dry Weather Taskforce on 14 February 2006.

TASMAN DRY SUMMER TASKFORCE

Water rationing is to be extended to the Wai-iti Valley. Tasman District Council's Dry Summer Taskforce convenor Dennis Bush-King said that the recent was welcome as about 10 mm did get on to the Waimea Plains but it was not enough to recharge the quifers.

Stage 2 rationing (ie a 35 percent cut in allowable take) remains in place for those permit holders in Upper Catchment, Reservoir, Waimea West, Delta, Upper Confined Aquifer, and Golden Hills zones and Stage 1 rationing (ie a 20 percent reduction in allowable take) for those permit holders in the Lower Confined Aquifer. The 89 permit holders in the wai-iti Zone will also move to Stage 1 as from Monday 12 December.

"While the forecast is for more rain later in the week it was decided that we need to manage the water storage for ongoing use for as long as we can and keep salt water out of the aquifers" Mr Bush-King said.

Golden Bay had a good 20 mm of rain in parts but rationing for both the Antatoki and Pupu salmon farms remains in place. The Cobb dam lake level continues to hover just above minimum operating level.

Permit holders in the areas affected by the water restrictions remain on weekly water meter returns. Mr Bush-King said it is essential that this information is received by Council as soon as possible following a Monday reading. Council can accept returns by email to meterreturns@tdc.govt.nz. Missing or late returns may result in Council staff reading the meter and invoicing the permit holder a standard monitoring cost of \$150.00 each time the meter requires reading.

Hosing restrictions also remain in place in the urban areas of Richmond, Mapua – Ruby Bay, Brightwater, Hope and Wakefield. Residents are reminded that hand held hosing only is permitted on odd and even calendar days corresponding to the house street number to water productive gardens. Owners of private wells in the areas subject to rationing are also requested to only water domestic gardens every second day.

The Council's urban water supplies are under pressure with Richmond particularly running close to exceeding permitted levels. Mr Bush-King said that Council staff will be monitoring water use to ensure every effort is being made to manage the supply wisely and for the benefit of all.

"We are planning to hold a public meeting to discuss the whole situation to water users and the public generally will be invited. We need to start thinking about what steps people can take to cope with a protracted drought. We will be advertising details shortly" said Mr Bush-King.

Ends

For Further information, please contact

Dennis Bush-King 03 543 8430 work,
 0274 310 317 mobile



RAINFALL & RIVER FLOWS

There has been reasonable rain throughout the District early this week. Good rainfalls were recorded in the most parts of the District through Wednesday.

Rainfall of 51 mm was recorded at **Wairoa Gorge** with the lower **Waimea Plains** at Appleby receiving 44 mm. There was 42 mm of rain up the **Lee**. There was 48 mm at **Motupiko** and 31 mm at **Woodstock**. In **Golden Bay** there was 37 mm of rain at the **Anatoki River** and 43 mm at the **Waingarō River**, with 23 mm recorded at **Kotinga** near Takaka township. There was 22 mm of rain up the **Aorere**, 64 mm recorded at **Upper Takaka** and 28 mm at the **Cobb**.

This rain in most parts of the District's catchments contributed to an increase in river flows. The **Wairoa River** peaked at 59 cumecs on Wednesday but by Thursday morning and at time of writing this report had already dropped to 24 cumecs. The **Motueka River** above the Motueka township is at 80 cumecs, **Buller River** 56 cumecs, **Anatoki River** 5.5 cumecs, **Takaka River** at Kotinga 14 cumecs and the **Aorere** 26 cumecs. (Note: 1 cumec is 1000 l/s)

Waimea Plains

The **Wairoa River** rose to 59 cumecs due to the rain but is drop-

ping quickly. The river is at 24 cumecs this morning and is expected to decline further quickly if there is no further rain. The moderate rainfall on the Waimea Plains would have alleviated some existing soil moisture deficits in the area. The groundwater levels in the Waimea Plains are improving with the rain but the full extent of the recovery will take some days to be realised in the aquifers. The **Lower Confined Aquifer** level along the coast has also improved with the rain.

The rainfall in the **Wai-iti** catchment has further improved the flows in the **Wai-iti River** and is flowing along its full length. The groundwater levels have also improved with the rain in the **Wai-iti Zone**.

Council monitoring of the coastal fringes to the Waimea showed a slight increase in salinity in some monitoring wells. Whilst this rain is welcome and has provided some relief it would be some days before the full impact of the rain in aquifer pressures and coastal salinity is realised. Due to the time of the year with the high water demand/evaporation and the still low aquifer levels **Council wishes to be prudent and maintain a low level of restriction for now until the impact of the rain is fully assessed**.

All rationing in place is now reduced to level one restriction only effective immediately. This situation will be reviewed with the Dry Weather Taskforce next Tuesday.

Rationing

Stage 1 rationing (i.e. a 20% cut from authorised weekly usage) applies for water permit holders in the Upper Catchment,

Reservoir, Waimea West, Delta, Upper Confined Aquifer, Golden Hills and Lower Confined Aquifer Zone effective immediately and continues for the week starting Monday 13 February 2006.

NOTE: Level two restrictions has been lifted effective immediately for the Upper Catchment, Reservoir, Waimea West, Delta, Upper Confined Aquifer and Golden Hill Zones. *No rationing is in place for the Wai-iti Zone.*

Water Meter Returns

The requirement for water meter readings to be sent in weekly continues and this includes the Wai-iti zone. Council thanks the majority of water users who are sending their returns in by Wednesday each week. This timely information assists in the decision making process about rationing steps.

To the minority who either don't send a return or send them in late, you are reminded of Council policy whereby Council staff will read the meter and you will receive an invoice for a standard monitoring cost of \$150 for each visit.

Council encourages all users to make returns by email to: meterreturns@tdc.govt.nz.

Moutere Catchment

The Moutere Catchment at Upper Moutere received 37 mm of rain over Wednesday this week. This rainfall would have benefited the area considering the Moutere geology. The rainfall would also have improved the low river flows in the area.

The **Western Groundwater Zone** water level is at 4.55 metres above sea level at Palmer's, the rationing

trigger here is 0 m above mean sea level.

Powley Creek also has benefited from the rain and would be flowing above its minimum flow of 2 l/s.

Motueka /Riwaka

Groundwater levels have again improved in the southern part of the **Motueka/Riwaka Plains** with the rainfall falling on the plains. No saltwater has been detected in any used bore in the coastal part of the **Hau Plains Zone**.

The **Riwaka River** is flowing at 5000 l/s (i.e. combined North & South Branch flow). The trigger for rostering/rationing at this point is 615 l/s.

Golden Bay

River levels in Golden Bay have improved with the rain in the catchment. **No rationing is in place for river takes in the area.**

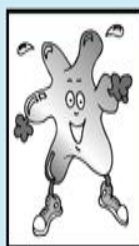
The **Cobb Dam** lake level is now at about 14 percent compared to the 17.9 percent last week.

TANKERED WATER DELIVERY

Council has compiled a list of organisations who we know cart water in the region to top up water storage tanks. Contact a Council office for a copy or to add your company's name to this list.

GENERAL

As the dry conditions persist, all water users in the District are encouraged to use the water wisely whether from bores, springs, streams, or reticulated supplies. Please avoid irrigating during windy conditions and in the daytime. Irrigation at night is encouraged.



COUNCIL'S URBAN/RURAL WATER SUPPLIES: SPRINKLER RESTRICTIONS

Hosing restrictions also remain in place in the urban areas of **Richmond, Mapua – Ruby Bay, Hope, Brightwater and Wakefield**. Hosing restrictions also apply to the rural water supplies of **Eight-eight Valley, Redwoods and the Dovedale schemes**. Residents are reminded that hand held hosing

only is permitted on **odd and even calendar days corresponding to the house street number** to water productive gardens. Owners of private wells in these areas are reminded that they can only take for household use and domestic productive gardens up to a maximum of 5 cubic metres daily.

Splash Gordon says go to: www.tasman.govt.nz for latest info on water restrictions

APPENDIX 4
Rationing Letter Summary

Letter Date	Merged letters 2005-2006 Water Rationing Affected Zones	Reason	Effective From
3/11/2005	WDEL, WGHZ, WRES, WUCA, WWW	Step 1	7/11/2005
10/11/2005	WDEL, WGHZ, WRES, WUCA, WWW	Step 2	14/11/2005
10/11/2005	WLCA	Step 1	14/11/2005
16/11/2005	WDEL, WGHZ, WRES, WUCA, WWW	Step 1 (Step 2 removed)	16/11/2005
1/12/2005	WDEL, WGHZ, WRES, WUCA, WWW	Step 2 rationing	5/12/2005
8/12/2005	WWAI	Step 1 rationing	12/12/2005
21/12/2005	WDEL, WGHZ, WRES, WUCA, WWW, WLCA, WWAI	All rationing removed	21/12/2005
12/01/2006	WDEL, WGHZ, WRES, WUCA, WWW	Step 2 rationing	16/01/2006
12/01/2006	WLCA, WWAI	Step 1 rationing	16/01/2006
1/02/2006	WWAI	Rationing removed	1/02/2006
9/02/2006	WDEL, WGHZ, WRES, WUCA, WWW	Step 1 (Step 2 removed)	9/02/2006
15/02/2006	WDEL, WGHZ, WRES, WUCA, WWW, WLCA	All rationing removed	15/02/2006
9/03/2006	WDEL, WGHZ, WRES, WUCA, WWW, WLCA	Step 1 rationing	13/03/2006
30/03/2006	WDEL, WGHZ, WRES, WUCA, WWW, WLCA	Step 2 rationing	3/04/2006
5/04/2006	WDEL, WGHZ, WRES, WUCA, WWW, WLCA	All rationing removed	5/04/2006

3 November 2005

Dear Water User

IMPORTANT NOTICE

RE: WATER RATIONING – «CONSENT» «ZONE» ZONE

This letter is being sent to all holders of water permits to take water from the «zone» Zone being part of the larger Waimea unconfined aquifer. The Tasman District Council (TDC) in consultation with Water User Committee Representatives on the Dry Weather Taskforce considers that there is a serious temporary shortage of water in this zone and rationing of water usage is necessary to help prevent further reductions in river flow and reduce the risk of seawater intrusion into the aquifer. Graphic representation of the current situation is appended at the end of this letter for your information.

Therefore and in terms of your consent condition, **Step 1 rationing is to be implemented by Council. Rationing in all affected zones will be effective from 9.00 am, Monday, 7 November 2005.** This rationing is implemented pursuant to section 329 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Notice of any further rationing steps will be available on the TDC website (www.tdc.govt.nz), by weekly reports in Tasman District Council's *Newsline Update* in the *Nelson Mail* (Saturday edition), *The Leader*, *The Guardian*, Council's *Newsline the Mag* (fortnightly). Water users will be kept informed of water level trends during rationing through these mediums.

As river flows are falling rapidly and without significant rain, it is likely that Step 2 rationing may be necessary from 14 November 2005. Please minimise your water use to help prevent this. One message from the Dry Weather Taskforce Group to water users was that if you haven't started irrigating yet and you don't need to, don't start. Council confirms that nil usage will not affect the 'bona fide' use of your water right.

From Monday, 7 November 2005 your weekly extraction must therefore be less than the following Step 1 allocation. Your allocations at Steps 2 and 3 are also listed:

Permit No. «consent» **Step 1 = «step1» cubic metres per week**
 Step 2 = «step2» cubic metres per week
 Step 3 = «step3» cubic metres per week

Council cannot stress enough the importance of receiving accurate and timely water meter readings – this importance is heightened during times of a water shortage. Returns made by email appear to be both the most efficient and increasingly preferred way of making returns. If we have not got your email address details, please provide them by emailing meterreturns@tdc.govt.nz. Council is investigating the introduction of an email reminder and return template being sent to you each Monday.

At this stage, the fortnightly return of weekly meter readings is still in place. However, and concurrent with the introduction of step 2 rationing, Council may require meter readings to be sent in weekly. Council recognises the difficulty this will cause with the prepaid return cards already sent and we are assessing what options are available to solve this problem.

Council asks and looks forward to your co-operation during this time of rationing and over the whole of the water metering season. All water users in the zones affected are equally responsible for protecting the valuable and limited water resource.

Please note that Council has adopted the following procedure when dealing with missing returns. After first making telephone contact and/or writing and the problem persists or represents itself during the season, Council staff will visit and read the water meter and a monitoring cost of \$150.00 will be applied.

Any administrative or compliance enquiries you have about rationing should be directed to Daryl Page. Any technical enquiries about rationing and/or water levels should be directed to Joseph Thomas. Contact details are provided below.

Yours faithfully



D C Bush-King

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING MANAGER

cc: Mike Schruer, Nelson City Council, P O Box 645, Nelson

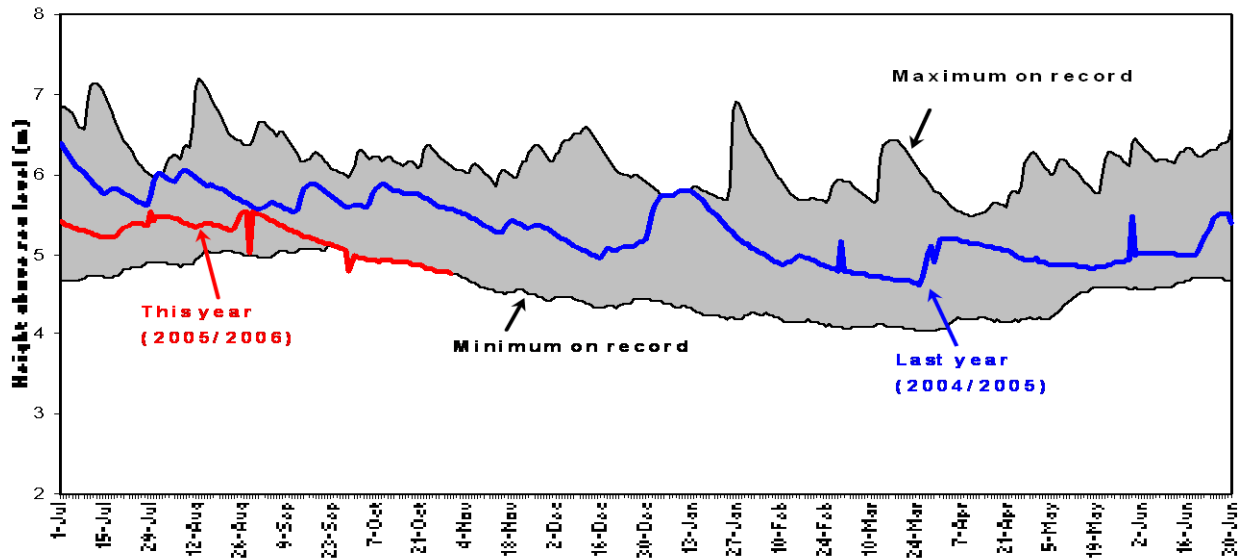
Joseph Thomas
Resource Scientist – Water
Email: joseph.thomas@tdc.govt.nz
Direct Dial: (03) 543-8494

Daryl Page
Compliance Officer
Email: daryl.page@tdc.govt.nz
Direct Dial: 5438425

Aquifer Status Graph: Waimea Groundwater @ CW2 (Delta Zone)

Ground level is 5.8 metres above sea level.

Records began 1975.



APPENDIX 6
Water Meter Requirements

The following table (formed from 31.1B in the TRMP) shows those zones (*highlighted*) where water metering implementation has been deferred and zones subject to water meter implementation in the future. The number on the left hand side represents the *highlighted* number of consents involved.

Water Meter Requirements	
Water Management Zone	Zones where Water Meters are Required
Motueka/Riwaka Plains	
(30)	<i>Riwaka Plains Zone – by 3 November 2004</i>
Metered	King Edward Zone
Metered	Hau Plains Zone
(23)	<i>Swamp Zone – by 3 November 2004</i>
(42)	<i>Umukuri Zone – by 3 November 2004</i>
Moutere	
(50-80 Domestic bores) Irrigation already metered.	Moutere Eastern and Western Groundwater zones
Waimea	
(26 Hope Aquifer consents. All other Waimea Zones are fully metered)	<u>All zones unless the water supply would have failed at the onset of rationing</u>
Upper Motueka	
	<i>Motupiko – by 2006</i>
(Total of 80+ consents)	<i>Tadmor - by 2006</i>
	<i>Tapawera Plains - by 2006</i>
	<i>Wangapeka - by May 2006</i>

14 October 2005

ATTENTION WATER USER – PLEASE READ

WATER METERING

According to Council records you are the holder of a consent to take groundwater and/or surface water and a condition of your consent is water metering.

This letter is to advise you that the first weekly meter reading for this 2005/06 summer season is required on **Monday 31 October 2005** and continues to 1 May 2006.

Because of the number of meters involved, Council will make a change this year from the traditional pre season meter audit. An audit of your meter will now be completed sometime during the season. When visiting your property, staff will leave a card stating:

- The consent and well numbers to which the water meter relates
- The date of the audit; and
- The meter reading at the time of the visit.

WATER METER RETURN CARDS

Return cards for the 2005/06 season are enclosed. Please note while your meter must be read weekly from 31 October 2005 to 1 May 2006, the return card is to be sent to Council on a fortnightly basis. The return cards are pre-paid and no envelope is required. Alternatively, and many users did this last season, returns can be sent by email to meterreturns@tdc.govt.nz or by facsimile to 03 5439524. Council also hopes to provide the ability for consent holders to enter the reading directly on the Council website in the future. To receive details once this is available send an email to meterreturns@tdc.govt.nz with the heading Website Access.

It is important that you:

- Read your meter each Monday
- Advise Council of the meter readings each fortnight (by the Wednesday)
- Advise Council of any nil reading.
- Advise Council if you are not irrigating or do not intend to irrigate this season

If you have more than one metered well it is important that the reading that you send to Council is on the correct card and/or corresponds to the correct meter.

A 100% return rate is required to enable Council to effectively manage the District's valuable and limited water resource. Last year return rates varied between 77% and 91% depending on the particular zone Your 2004/05 data is enclosed so you can not only see a summary of your weekly usage last year, but to highlight instances where there was no return made and/or an overtake situation. Where no return was received, there is no

entry in the 'Reading' column. Council asks all water users to play their part by sending in every return on a timely basis.

A particular focus will be put on 'missing returns' this year. A continued absence of returns will result in Council staff having to read your meter themselves. This cost will be recovered from you.

GENERAL

I look forward to working with you during the season. You will find my contact details at the top of this letter or you can simply send a message to meterreturns@tdc.govt.nz

Should you have any technical and/or consent enquiries, you can contact Joseph Thomas or Neil Tyson and their contact details are provided below.

Yours faithfully



Daryl Page
Compliance Officer

Joseph Thomas
Resource Scientist – Water
Email: joseph.thomas@tdc.govt.nz
Direct Dial: (03) 543-8494

Neil Tyson
Consent Planner
Email: neil.tyson@tdc.govt.nz
Direct Dial: (03) 543-8497

2005 / 2006 Compliance Monitoring – Water

Recoverable Costs

Description	Staff Cost	Recovery	Shortfall
Missing Return and Excessive Take Enforcement	\$20,925	\$15,409	\$5,516

Non Recoverable Costs

Description	Staff Cost	Annual Charge	General Rate Appropriation	Shortfall
Permitted Activity	\$6,951			
Database Administration	\$69,407			
Meter Audits	\$6,920			
Pre-Season	\$10,130			
Drought Management	\$9,900			
Misc	\$3,391			
Total	\$106,699	\$43,000	\$42,560	\$21,139

Water Metering Monitoring in the 2005 – 2006 Summer Season – Waimea Plains

I would first like to say that despite a busy year due to rationing in the Waimea Plains, the success of the project continues to improve. While Council systems are under constant development to make the process easier, the underlying success of the project relies on the responsiveness of you the water user. Both Rose (who received your returns) and I enjoyed the rapport we built up with many water users throughout the season. Thank you.

Water Consumption On the reverse side you will find two graphs which show water consumption as a % of the allowable take at any given time. The first graph represents your individual record; the second graph represents the water management zone from which you draw your water.

Water Rationing Less than average monthly rainfall in the three preceding months meant that river and groundwater levels were extremely low for the start of the 2005 – 2006 water metering season. As you will know, water rationing in the Waimea Plains was introduced from 7 November 2005. My records show that rationing in the Waimea Plains was in place for 16 weeks (of 25) and that the Dry Weather Taskforce met on 18 occasions. This meant a lot of paperwork! The graphs show which weeks the 20% and 35% rationing steps were in place and subsequently when the area received some rainfall – indicated by both the allowable take returning to 100% and a reduced consumption by users.

Water Meter Returns The primary aim of water metering is to receive accurate and timely information about water usage through users making water meter returns. I am pleased to say the majority (85 - 100%) of water users supplied accurate and timely water meter returns with many taking advantage of an email return. A further return option will be introduced next season - the ability to enter meter readings directly on Council's website. I'll be in contact about this before next season.

Missing Readings Some users continue to either not file returns or send their readings in late. If the 'allocation' column in your individual graph is missing, this represents a missing return. Council proactively monitored compliance in this area and a minority (24 of 369) of users in the Waimea Plains had their meter read by Council staff and were invoiced a monitoring fee of \$150.

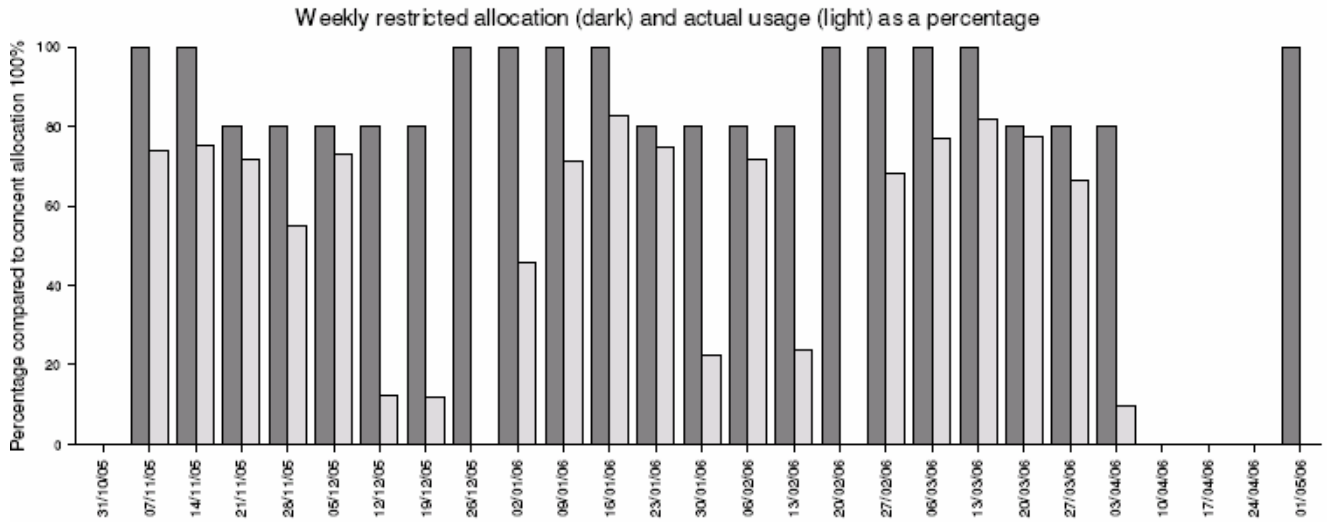
Water Meter Audit An 'anytime, anywhere' water meter audit was undertaken and will continue next year. While only relevant to a small number of meters, some fictitious readings were identified. This practice is a concern and will likely result in enforcement action in the future.

Excessive Takes The consideration of enforcement action for excessive takes was consistently applied. After first receiving a warning, 10 infringement notices (five water users) were issued in the Waimea Plains.

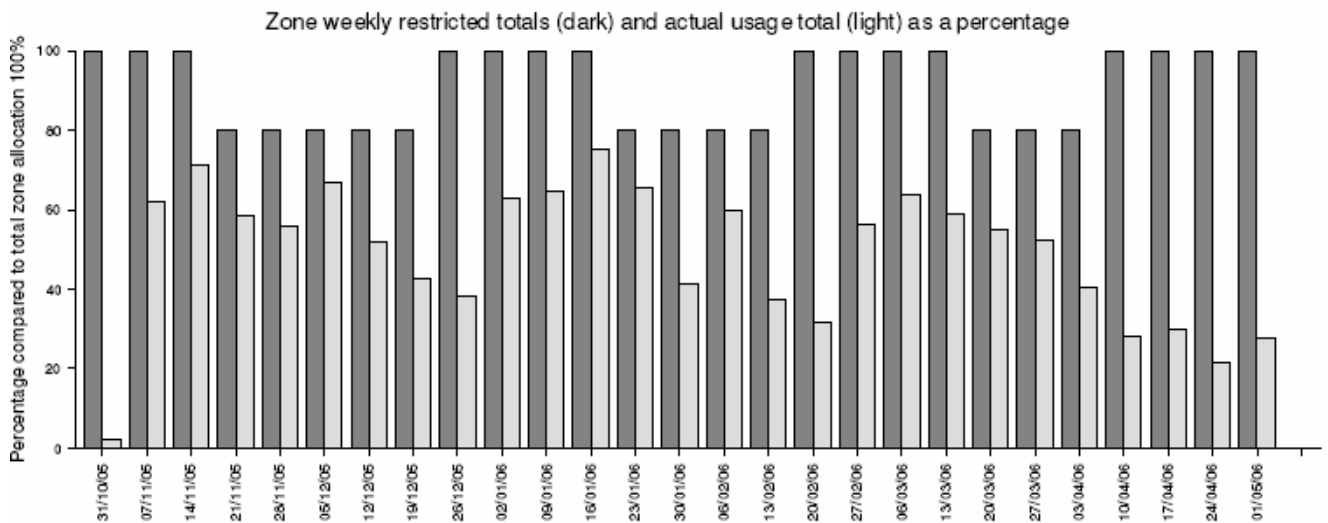
Once again thanks and keep those returns coming in next season – the more complete the information, the better we are to manage our valuable water resource. Let's hope for a bit more rain this coming season!

Daryl Page Phone: 03 5438425 Email: daryl.page@tdc.govt.nz
Compliance Officer – Water Metering Project

APPENDIX 10 End of Season Summary Example



Waimea Lower Confined Aquifer



Water Metering Monitoring in the 2005 – 2006 Summer Season – Mouteka - Moutere

I would first like to say that despite a busy year due to rationing in the Waimea Plains, the success of the project continues to improve. While Council systems are under constant development to make the process easier, the underlying success of the project relies on the responsiveness of you the water user. Both Rose (who received your returns) and I enjoyed the rapport we built up with many water users throughout the season. Thank you.

Water Consumption On the reverse side you will find two graphs which show water consumption as a % of the allowable take at any given time. The first graph represents your individual record; the second graph represents the water management zone from which you draw your water.

Water Rationing While the season was generally drier than normal, no water rationing was imposed for the Motueka – Moutere zones. Although of concern at times, river flow and groundwater indicators remained above the rationing trigger levels. Notwithstanding this, Powley Creek (at the Chamberlain Street Bridge) went dry at least twice. For your general information, water rationing was in place for 16 weeks (of 25) in the Waimea Plains from the start of the season being 7 November 2005.

Water Meter Returns The primary aim of water metering is to receive accurate and timely information about water usage through users making water meter returns. I am pleased to say the majority (85 - 100%) of water users supplied accurate and timely water meter returns with many taking advantage of an email return. A further return option will be introduced next season - the ability to enter meter readings directly on Council's website. I'll be in contact about this before next season.

Missing Readings Some users continue to either not file returns or send their readings in late. If the 'allocation' column in your individual graph is missing, this represents a missing return. Council proactively monitored compliance in this area and a minority (12 of 184) of users in the Mouteka – Moutere zones had their meter read by Council staff and were invoiced a monitoring fee of \$150.

Water Meter Audit An 'anytime, anywhere' water meter audit was undertaken and will continue next year. While only relevant to a small number of meters, some fictitious readings were identified. This practice is a concern and will likely result in enforcement action in the future.

Excessive Takes The consideration of enforcement action for excessive takes was consistently applied. After first receiving a warning, 3 infringement notices were issued in the Motueka – Moutere zones.

Once again thanks and keep those returns coming in next season – the more complete the information, the better we are to manage our valuable water resource. Let's hope for a bit more rain this coming season!

Daryl Page Phone: 03 5438425 Email: daryl.page@tdc.govt.nz
Compliance Officer – Water Metering Project