

Policy:	Water Demand Management
Department:	Assets
Approved by:	Policy and Services Committee
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## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To set out the actions that Council will take to manage the demand for water and clarify water restriction levels and requirements during periods of reduced source water supply.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Water supply sources run limited in supply due to reduced river flows and there is a limit to how much water that can be abstracted to ensure river habitats are protected.
- 2.3 At reduced source water flows, Council's resource consent 0195-3 requires that Council implements water conservation measures to reduce water demand. The consent specifies priority supply, as the amount necessary to maintain the health of people and animals.

## 3. Council Actions

- 3.1 When flows in the Pātea River reduce to less than 780 litres per second, Council will take action, referring to powers in the Water Supply Bylaw 2019 (the bylaw).
- 3.2 In accordance with the clauses 15.4.3 and 15.4.4 of the bylaw, Council reserves the right to implement and lift water restriction via public notice-as necessary.

## 4. Restriction Levels

- 4.1 Council will implement four water restriction levels based on the amount of available source water in the Pātea River. Council considers community groups or clubs as commercial entities.
- 4.2 **Level 1** – When the flows in the Pātea River reduce to less than **780 litres per second**, Council will implement an odds and evens street address system for residential users to allow the use of hand held hoses, including water blasters on applicable days, however, unattended hoses, sprinklers and irrigation systems are not permitted. Council permits the use of hand held hoses, including water blasters, sprinklers and irrigation systems strictly for commercial purposes.
- 4.3 **Level 2** – When flows in the Pātea River reduce to less than **650 litres per second**, Council will implement a total ban on the **residential and commercial** use of handheld hoses and water blasters, sprinklers and irrigation systems unless an exception is granted at Councils discretion. Commercial activities that rely on water as part of their core operations are exempt from this ban.
- 4.4 **Level 3** – When flows in the Pātea River reduce to less than **556 litres per second** at any point over three consecutive days, **all residential and commercial users** are restricted to essential water use only.
- 4.5 **Level 4** – When flows in the Pātea River reduce to less than **300 litres per second**, Council will consider this a crisis level. **All residential and commercial users** are

restricted to essential water use only and Council will work with **all residential and commercial users** to further reduce water usage where possible, in accordance with clause 15.4.1 of the bylaw.

## **5. Exceptions**

- 6.1 The council may make exceptions in extraordinary circumstances, considering environmental conditions, economic as well as human and public health aspects at the time.