



What effect does water use have on the environment? The Environmental Science team at Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) monitors river flows, river water quality, groundwater levels and groundwater quality, plus river, lake, estuary, and coastal ecology. As well as monitoring weather conditions, we provide regular climate briefings in dry months, which look at historical and predicted weather patterns, soil moisture, river flow, and groundwater level. By also knowing how much water is being used, and how efficiently, we can put the two together, and understand how water use affects the environment.

HBRC scientists are providing the TANK group and the WCO process with information that can be used in decisions about catchment protection, water allocation and water quality. The complex groundwater, surface water models that underpin some of this work eventually will be made available for anyone to use. It's exciting for the scientists to see the products of their hard work being used in decision-making by the community. You can read updates on all this work in this Hawke's Bay issue.

Stephen Swabey, Hawke's Bay Regional Council Science Manager.

Water matters in Hawke's Bay

TANK UPDATE

New water take applications for the Heretaunga aquifer will be considered on a case by case basis and may be declined by HBRC, unless applicants can demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on rivers or neighbouring bores. This has come as a result of work for the TANK process which has found that the amount of water used by consent holders is considerably less than the amount consented, and there would be problems if people used their full consents. The TANK Group will be looking at whether existing levels of water use can continue into the future or if there will need to be a reduction. They will be making recommendations to Council.

Also see the article on page 18.

WATER CONSERVATION ORDER

The Water Conservation Order (WCO) Hearing for the Ngaruroro River, its tributaries, Clive River and connected groundwater began on 14 November. The hearing has been split into two so that issues for the upper Ngaruroro (inland from the Whanawhana cableway) will be considered separately from the lower Ngaruroro and Clive Rivers. The hearings for the upper Ngaruroro were scheduled to last three weeks. The applicants are Forest and Bird, Fish and Game, Ngati Hori ki Kohupatiki, Whitewater New Zealand and Jet Boating NZ. They are seeking protections

within the catchment for indigenous species habitats, for water quality, for recreational use and for preservation of the natural landscape. The second part of the hearing into the lower Ngaruroro will be convened early in 2018.

HBRC is opposing the WCO primarily on the basis that the TANK process, which is focussed on NPSFM-driven planning and rules for managing water and land in the Ngaruroro catchment plus the Tutaekuri, Karamū and Ahuriri catchments, is the preferred approach to protecting the community's many values.

CHB REQUESTS WATER SOLUTION

A delegation of the 40-member strong Ruataniwha Water Users Group, with Central Hawke's Bay Mayor Alex Walker, has requested Council for a five year delay on the introduction of minimum flows on the Tukituki River.

Higher minimum flows are set to come into force on 1 July next year which are likely to mean more and longer periods when the river will be on a low flow ban, stopping irrigators from taking water. The water users group is concerned that this will impact on the regional economy as the timetable, set as part of the original water storage project, now doesn't give irrigators sufficient time to adjust to having less water during peak production. The now-canned Ruataniwha water storage scheme aimed to send water down the river to boost summer low flows.

Any global consenting arrangements, such as those operating in the Twyford area, or collaborative arrangements for water storage will take time for the community to consider and put into place.



Algae in the Tukituki River at low flow.



← FARM PLAN
NO → PLAN



Head off your Farm Plan before 31 May 2018.

Landowners in Tukituki catchment on a block over 4ha need a Farm Plan. So avoid the dog box and extra costs.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?

<p>Do your Farm Plan</p>	<p>Apply for Resource Consent <small>(You haven't done your Farm Plan)</small></p>	<p>Do Nothing</p>
<p>You are compliant Start using your Farm Plan and carry on farming</p>	<p>Will cost you more time and money because you have to pay \$1,000-\$2,000 for your resource consent as well as the Farm Plan you still have to get done</p>	<p>Will cost you more time and money because Council will take compliance or enforcement action against you. Fines are up to \$300,000 and you still have to pay to do your Farm Plan</p>

FARM PLAN required by 31 MAY 2018

Farm Plans, Nutrient Budgets and Resource Consents

The beauty of a Farm Plan is that it helps give direction and priority to specific farm tasks, such as nutrient budgeting, stock exclusion and planting.

As you develop your Farm Plan, you'll work out whether you're likely to need a Resource Consent in June 2020.

If you take no action, the Council will have to act against you. This might mean legal action or a hefty fine. Worst case? It may be difficult for you to continue to farm.

For a full list of Farm Plan providers, head off to hbrc.govt.nz search #FEMP.

0800 108 838 06 835 9200 more at hbrc.govt.nz, search #tukituki



ACT TODAY DEADLINE MAY

TUKI TUKI



Be fair with water

Regional Council staff have been monitoring resource consents since spring irrigation started stepping up this year.

Our compliance team has promptly responded to some alerts where water takes may have exceeded the consented limits. As a result, we've identified various issues: telemetry not working because of a lack of maintenance, or the consent holders not reading their meters correctly.

"Regional Councillors have clearly stated that efficient water use is a priority for the region, and monitoring and compliance staffing has been increased, so we will be checking more thoroughly this summer," says Keith Peacock, Team Leader Compliance.

When a resource consent is granted, it includes conditions which set limits on the amount of water the consent holder is authorised to take, by rate (litres per second) and by total amount (volume). HBRC's Water Information Service monitors this use through both telemetered (by cell phone) and manual water meter readings.

CHECK YOUR CONSENT LIMITS

Earlier this year, HBRC issued 21 infringement notices for exceeding water take consent limits. HBRC Compliance staff expect that infringements and other enforcement measures will be used this irrigation season if people take more water than they are allowed.

Irrigators need to ensure they and their staff are fully aware of the limits in their consents.

We regularly remind irrigators to check consent conditions for irrigation before they start, so they don't exceed the set water volume

or rate of take, and to check their gear to ensure it's working

"Please get onto this, so you don't have problems once you need the water," says Keith Peacock.

"Irrigators should be able to manage their water use efficiently and within their consent conditions so they can avoid incurring unnecessary compliance charges and possible enforcement action."

DUST OFF YOUR CONSENTS!

Although the regional council advises people to keep their consents in a safe place (because these are legal documents), we don't mean you should put it in the back of a filing cabinet and never look at it again! Too often HBRC staff find that irrigators aren't familiar with the conditions of their consent, which you need to be when using a shared resource like water.

So dust off that water take consent or check HBRC consent maps online so that you and your staff know the details. Write the details on a whiteboard or add to your mobile phone.

As the consent holder, you are responsible for the 'upkeep' of the consent – if the consented activity changes (eg, a change to maximum volumes, crop type, irrigated area or discharge area) you must notify the regional council. Also advise (in writing) if your address or company name changes. The Regional Council cannot make changes to your legal consent document without a written application, even if you have previously discussed the change with our staff. The forms are online at hbrc.govt.nz, search #consents or contact the HBRC consents advisor for advice.

CHECK THAT YOU KNOW

- **The consented water take rate (litres per second) and total amount (volume) for each consent** – This is what you are legally authorised to take. Exceeding this has penalties.
- **Issue or commencement date** – From this date you can carry out your activity in accordance with the conditions.
- **Expiry date** – The date that your consent ends. If you have not applied to replace your consent it no longer exists and the activity cannot legally continue. Is your consent running out? Applications have to be received by Council six months before expiry.
- **Lapse date** – Another date that can catch you out. If you have not used the consent by this date, it will end. Think of it as a 'use it or lose it' date. Where no date is specified, the consent will lapse five years after the date of issue. This ensures that access to resources is not allocated to those who do not use it. If you think you won't use your consent before it lapses, you can apply for an extension of the lapse date.
- **Review dates** – These are the dates when Council can review the conditions of your consent, for any of the reasons specified.

IN BRIEF

REMINDER TO UPDATE DETAILS TO GET LOW FLOW INFO

Consent holders who have low flow restrictions will get an email or text alert from HBRC's automated system. But to get these, your contact details need to be correct. If you've changed your email and/or text number since your consent was granted, please check that we have your latest details. Contact Barbara McKenzie, Senior Adminis-

tration Officer, McKenzie@hbrc.govt.nz with your consent number and contact detail changes.

CLIMATE BRIEFING INFO

Each summer climate briefings are held at HBRC offices in Napier. The climate briefings are open to the public on Friday 8 December, Friday 19 January, Thursday 1 March, Friday 13 April (all 8.30–10am). Videos of these are online at www.hbrc.govt.nz, search #climate. The prediction is for close to normal

conditions until the end of the year, and a north-east flow is predicted to continue through summer. A El Nino weather pattern dominates but a weak La Nina pattern may briefly occur from November to late summer. Rainfall is expected to be near normal or slightly above from November to January, with a possibility of downpours. Soil moisture and river flows are also expected to be near normal. NIWA predicts a 60 percent chance of temperatures being above average along the East Coast.

Efficiency programme underway

System checks are now underway for farmers who have expressed interest in the Summer Irrigation Efficiency Programme. They will have a maximum of two irrigation systems checked over the summer period to determine distribution uniformity (via bucket tests) and identify hidden problems that may exist. They can then get advice and/or improvements from their irrigation service provider. The programme aims to check up to 120 systems across 60 properties.

There are still places available for irrigators who would like to be part of the Summer Irrigation Efficiency Programme. Contact our team by emailing irrigationcheckup@hbrc.govt.nz, or call Kate Jefferd 0273 700 751 or Monique Benson 0274 966 138.

Two students have been employed by HBRC's Water Information Services team to operate the pilot programme – Chris Hicks and Elese Hugget. They will soon become very familiar faces out in the field this summer.

Chris is currently studying a Bachelor of Commerce at Victoria University majoring in Finance and Commercial Law; Elese is currently studying a BSc majoring in environmental science at Massey University.

The first of the practical evaluations have begun, now that the students' have completed training with Vicky Bloomer at

IrrigationNZ. Vicky and Steve Breneger at IrrigationNZ are providing technical support, and Kate Jefferd and Monique Benson at HBRC are assisting and coordinating the visits.



Elese Hugget and Chris Hicks, who will work on the programme.

IN BRIEF

LEASING LAND?

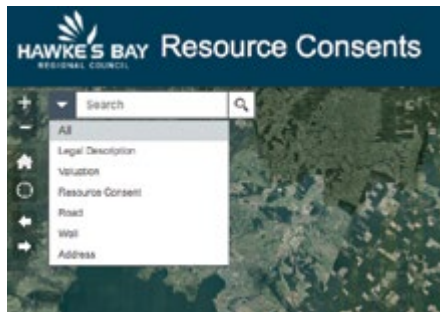
Often people will lease land without checking that the property has a current water take consent. Lessees are encouraged to check with HBRC that the property they are leasing has a consent that is adequate for their irrigation needs – check online in the Online Maps (see article below). It is also important for the landowner to ensure the lessee knows the limits, because if exceedances do occur, the landowner could be liable. The consent holder may be able to change the allocated volume, but will need to check with HBRC first.

Note that **new consents** for the Heretaunga Plains are now restricted and considered on a case by case basis; there is no guarantee that you will be granted a consent to take for irrigation.

MAPPING SOFTWARE: CHANGES TO THE HBRC WEBSITE

If you use HBRC's website to view Online Maps, you will have noticed a change. We are now using Eagle Technology and ESRI to provide Hawke's Bay maps. The performance will be better when you use Chrome or Firefox browsers.

On www.hbrc.govt.nz, scroll to the bottom to choose the 'Consents' icon. Before you can open the Resource Consents maps, you will need to click in the box to the left of 'I agree to the above terms and conditions' **before** you can click 'OK'.



Use 'Search' (top left) to select from various categories and it will then zoom to the property or well that you have chosen (zoom only works in Full Screen mode). Clicking on the property itself will show a 'Property Valuation' and 'Related Records' will show you consents associated with that property – highlight these to see the details. You can make complex queries with functions available in the 'Select feature' (click on 'MORE' in the menu bar to open),

for example, find how many wells are within 500 metres of a proposed new well. This can be a bit tricky, and you are welcome to get in touch with Jo Rodgers at HBRC 06 833 8043 for specific instructions.

ICE CREAM WINNERS

Congratulations to **Bearsley Group in Napier** who won the meter reading competition in the last spring issue of IrrigationNZ News. The competition was on how to read an ARAD mechanical meter, taking into account the decimal points. Their correct reading was 36961.62m³, which won them two boxes of delicious Rush Munro ice creams.

