



Irrigation of Key Council Assets Policy

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide clear guidance for Council staff and parks and reserves contractors about the use of irrigation systems for Council assets and properties during periods of water restriction.
- 1.2 To provide a clear policy and rationale for the public on the use of irrigations systems for Council assets and properties during periods of water restriction.

2. Rationale

- 2.1 The Council has significant investment parks, reserves, gardens and notable trees which need to be protected and maintained. The District Plan requires us to ensure that any adverse effects on the health of notable trees are avoided, remedied or mitigated; this confers a responsibility to ensure that the trees receive sufficient water to remain healthy. Unlike grass, which can be replaced within a season, the historic trees in their current form cannot be easily replaced. With sportsfields, the investment is in the turf and the costs of the annual re-seeding and grass management which enables them to be used for both summer and winter codes. Newly-planted street and park trees require additional watering for the first two years after planting to ensure strong growth. Gardens, particularly annual beds, are an important part of the visual amenity of each of the towns.

3. Policy

3.1 GUIDELINES

- 3.1.1 Watering of key council assets will continue during periods of public water restriction, according to the following matrix :

Restriction Level	Water Conservation Method - Public	Water Conservation Method - Council	Notes	Enforcement procedures
None	No restrictions however residents are advised to be diligent around using water	No restrictions however staff and contractors are advised to be diligent around using water	No issues around the water supply, and demands are being monitored	No official procedures. On-going awareness on water conservation and importance around reducing water usage
Level 1 – Hosing and sprinkler restrictions	Hand-held hoses and sprinklers may be used on alternative days only. Even numbered properties on even numbered calendar days and odd numbered properties on odd numbered calendar days.	Automatic irrigation of key council assets as normal. (These assets are defined in the Irrigation of Key Council Assets Policy) Hand watering of key council assets as normal.	The water supply is under some pressure. Imposed when there is a water shortage and water savings are required.	Advertising in the local newspapers, radio and on the Council website Council website and Facebook pages to include reference to Irrigation of Key Council Assets Policy as rationale for continued irrigation of council spaces
Level 2 – Sprinkler ban	Unattended hoses, sprinklers, and garden irrigation systems are not permitted at any time. Hand-held hoses may be used on alternative days only. Even numbered properties on even numbered calendar days and odd numbered properties on odd numbered calendar days.	Automatic irrigation of key council assets continues. Hand watering of key council assets as normal.	The water supply is under considerable pressure	Advertising in the local newspapers, radio and on the Council website Council website and Facebook pages to include reference to Irrigation of Key Council Assets Policy as rationale for continued irrigation of council spaces
Level 3 – Total ban	No water use outside of the house by means of hand held hoses, unattended hoses, sprinklers, and garden irrigation systems is permitted at any time. Only use of watering cans or buckets is permitted	Automatic irrigation of key council assets from town supply ceases and alternative water sources (tanker, bore) used. Hand watering of key council assets from town supply ceases and alternative water sources (tanker, bore) used	The water supply is at a critical level	Advertising in the local newspapers, radio and on the Council website Signage to be installed in the three towns advising of the water restrictions and hosing ban Council Contractor vehicles to have magnetic stickers attached, advising of water hosing ban. Council website and Facebook pages to include reference to Irrigation of Key Council Assets Policy as rationale for continued irrigation of council spaces, and noting alternative water supply sources used. In extreme conditions, residents can be encouraged to contribute grey water to trees in berms and parks.

3.2 KEY COUNCIL ASSETS

3.2.1 **"Key council assets"**, for the purposes of this policy, are those parks, reserves, gardens and trees which:

- (i) contain significant existing investment in:
 - (a) natural turf for sporting use; and/or
 - (b) notable trees recorded in the Combined District Plan;
and have automatic irrigation systems; or
- (ii) are routinely hand-watered under the parks and reserves contract (eg annual beds); or
- (iii) are trees planted less than two years ago; or
- (iv) are sports fields with natural turf in regular use.

3.2.2 The key council assets which currently meet these criteria are:

- (i) Soldiers' Memorial Park within Martinborough Square (3.2.1 (i) (b));
- (ii) Soldiers' Memorial Park cricket wicket block, Greytown (3.2.1 (i) (a));
- (iii) annual beds in Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough, particularly those placed directly on the road surface;
- (iv) Farley's Oak, Greytown;
- (v) various new tree plantings in Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough;
- (vi) Martinborough rugby field.

3.3 Where irrigation systems for sports fields with natural turf in regular use are not owned by SWDC but by the sports club concerned, there shall be a written agreement in place between the sports club and the Council covering, but not limited to, the following items :

- (i) the nature of the connection including backflow prevention and metering;
- (ii) hours of use;
- (iii) maximum quantity of water allowable.