



Maungatapere Water Company Ltd

www.mpewaterco.co.nz

Newsletter

September 2021

WEBSITE

In the first instance please consult our website if you have any queries in relation to the running of the scheme. We will post any matters such as temporary supply disruptions due to pipe breakages or other issues on the site.

RAINFALL WATER USAGE

Last year we received 1233mm of rain, a significant improvement on previous low of 886mm and compares favourably to our 10-year rolling average rainfall of 1271mm.

The Maunu dam has benefited from the highest rainfall in the months of July and August for the last 10 years and at the end of August it was 75% full. The dam still needs all the rain it can get in order to fill prior to the start of this year's irrigation season. We are holding our breath after experiencing the dam dropping to a record low level due to the previous two years of below average rainfall.

WATER USAGE

Our water usage for the last 5 years is as set out below and showing some consistency in annual usage.

	m ³
2017	598,899
2018	331,008
2019	469,410
2020	696,280
2021	568,021

WATER ENTITLEMENT REMINDER

As we mentioned last year, please remember that the company is coming under increasing pressure to manage the water usage so that it is fair to all users. As a water user your drawdown rate and total water entitlement is determined by your company shareholding. Each share you hold entitles you to draw 25m³ of water from the scheme over a 24-hour period. i.e. 1.04 m³ per hour. It does not entitle you to draw this amount over a shorter time period. The company's ability to supply water is determined by the pumping capacity and pipe size associated with a particular line. Your shares are linked to the line from which you are supplied water and the number of shares issued for that line are linked to the reticulation capacity of the line.

SCHEME MAINTENANCE

Last year we reported on the impact that algae growth at the Wairua River intake had on the scheme's use of water from the river, particularly in times of low flow. The company hasn't yet found a satisfactory solution to the problem but we are investigating ways to reduce the cost associated with keeping the intake free from such obstructions.

If you see our scheme manager, in between the myriad of cones and traffic signs, working on the 450mm steel pipeline from the Wairua bridge to the Mangakahia Sports Complex, this is part of our preventative maintenance programme on this line. Over time the bolts joining the steel pipes, various water and air valves on the line have corroded and need replacing. This is both time consuming and expensive, especially the significant cost associated with the road safety traffic control requirements, without the actual repair costs on top. This is an ongoing project as there are 27 sites in need of repair and they are working out at a cost of approximately \$5500 each site.

We have endeavored to undertake as much as possible over the winter to avoid the risk of a pipeline failure during the irrigation season.



PROPERTY SALES

Remember if you are selling your property, you need to notify the Company and we will organize a final meter reading for your property. Prior to settlement you need to advise the company of the full details of the purchaser of your property and effective date of settlement.

If shares are transferred as part of the sale, then you need to have completed a share transfer form sent to the Company for registration. We stress that, until the share transfer form is received and the new contracts drawn up, you as the existing property owner will be liable for the water used on the property.

SHARE PURCHASES/TRANSFERS

We frequently get requests to acquire/sell shares on sections of the scheme where there are no new shares available. The company endeavours to keep a register of people interested in purchasing or selling shares. The general position

where the company acts as the facilitator for such transactions is as set out below;

- a) The company does not buy back the shares
- b) The owner of the shares at the time the annual capacity fee is charged is liable for the fee. There is no capacity fee adjustment for the vendor or new owner where the transfer occurs during the irrigation season post the charging of the annual capacity fee.
- c) The company charges a 5% fee to the vendor of the shares to cover our costs

RESOURCE CONSENTS

The company has two water resource consents that it relies on to supply irrigation water to our irrigators other than Maunu, which is supplied from the Millington Road Dam. The primary resource consent is to take water from the Waipoa Stream colloquially referred to as the Poroti Springs. This consent is closely linked to the Whangarei District Council consent from the same area and has stringent downstream flow conditions attached to its use and these are audited by the Northland Regional Council. Our back up consent is from the Wairua River and our intake is situated at the bridge on the Mangakahia road. The company has a maximum daily extraction limit of 27000m3 split between both sources and these consents run until June 2044.

As mentioned previously the management of the use from the Wairua and the dam have proved problematic from an operational level in the last few years. The company needs to update its records of the planted and planned plantings within the scheme boundaries to assist us meet operational and consent conditions. We are planning to send to all property owners a survey form to provide us with this information. This is important for us to plan adequately to deliver the water in a seamless manner and to ensure our consents compliance. Please attend to this promptly when it is received.

WATER CHARGES

The Directors have determined that the GST exclusive water charges for the 2021 – 2022 irrigation season are as follows:
\$

Annual capacity fee per share 1010

Irrigation water rate per m3	0.63
Non shareholder rate per m3	2.65
Cemetery Road rate per m3	2.77

WATER QUALITY



Please remember that the scheme is only providing irrigation water, it is NOT POTABLE and the quality varies according to the time of year and water source.

WATER LEAKS

We ask that you report any knowledge of a leakage, either reservoir overflows, wastage or vandalism as soon as possible to the Scheme Manager. This helps to reduce our costs.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ONLINE

When you pay your account online please don't forget to include your account number in the payee reference. Your account number is a five-digit number and can be found on your invoice and at the bottom of your statement. The company's bank account number is: 12-3106-0007597-00.

EASEMENTS

Be aware of scheme pipelines running through your property and the easements associated with them. The company needs to have unimpeded access to maintain these lines and shelter belts should not be allowed to encroach into this area or around the water meter box.

If you are not sure where the pipe or the easement runs please contact the Scheme Manager to avoid potential problems in the future. Any damage caused to our pipes will be charged to the landowner.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Company AGM is to be held on Thursday 4th November 2021.

If you wish to nominate a person for the position of director, would you please phone the office or email the Secretary to obtain a nomination form. This needs to be forwarded to the Secretary by 15th October 2021.

IRRIGATION NEW ZEALAND

The company is a member of Irrigation NZ. As a shareholder in the company you can receive their training updates, training tools at membership pricing and their quarterly magazine. If you are interested go to their web site to register. : www.irrigationnz.co.nz

Directors

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