



Media release

Friday 4 December 2015

## Water restrictions introduced in Selwyn

Formal mandatory water restrictions have been introduced for properties connected to Selwyn District Council water supplies, effective from 8am Saturday 5 December.

“Rainfall during 2015 has been much lower than normal, meaning that groundwater levels are significantly lower than usual and have not had an opportunity to recharge adequately over winter,” says Selwyn District Council Water Assets Manager Murray England.

Environment Canterbury has restricted groundwater consumption for a number water supplies because of low ground water levels.

Strong El Nino conditions are forecast to continue to affect Canterbury over summer, leading to low rainfall and higher than normal demand for water from households.

“The Council has introduced these restrictions to help manage demand for water so it occurs more evenly throughout the day and week, to sustainably manage water supplies and meet Environment Canterbury requirements,” says Mr England.

Under the water restrictions the following rules apply to residential and commercial properties:

- Watering of lawns is permitted between **9am-4pm** and **9pm-6am on alternate days only**. If your street address number is even then watering is permitted only on even numbered days, if your street address number is an odd number then watering is permitted only on odd numbered days. For example if your property number is an even number such as 2, 34b or 108 you can water your lawn as needed on even days such as 8,10,12 December and so on during the permitted times. If watering during the daytime the Council recommends choosing a cooler day to reduce evaporation
- Garden watering is permitted at any time
- There is a requirement to decrease demand especially during peak periods. This means that property owners should only use as much water as they need to, only water during permitted hours and avoid wasting water

If demand for water is particularly high, water pressure will be reduced to sustain the supply.

Water restrictions are commonly used throughout New Zealand as a way to manage demand for water over dry summers. Restrictions are currently in place in a number of areas including Wellington, Tasman, Hamilton, Timaru, Hurunui and Akaroa.

More stringent water restrictions could be introduced in Selwyn if drier weather conditions persist and demand for water continues to be high over summer.

Ends

For media enquiries please contact:

Allanah Jarman  
Selwyn District Council  
[Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz)  
03 347 2807