

Kia ora koutou,

Please see below for our latest update on our water supply situation. Since our previous update on this topic, we have received a new seasonal weather forecast that suggests the dry weather may continue throughout April. The longer period of warm weather also means demand is higher than normal for this time of year.

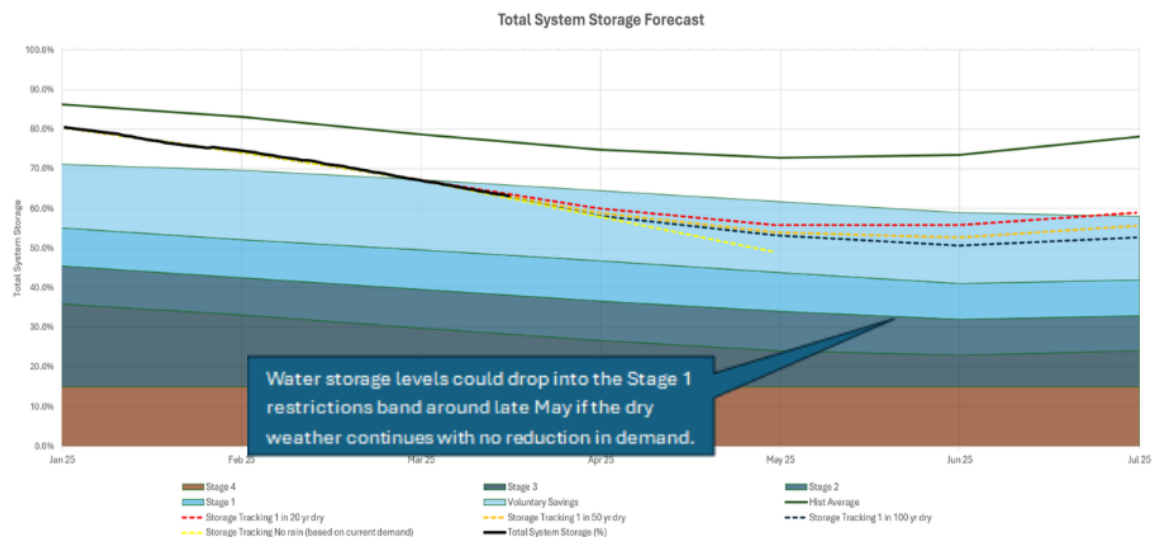
As you may have seen in the media, there is now a total fire ban in Auckland because of the dry conditions.

Current situation:

Auckland is currently in the 'preparing for drought' band in Watercare's Drought Management Plan due to dam levels dropping below the trigger point earlier this month. Our total water storage is currently 62.9 per cent, which is around 13 percentage points lower than the historical average. The level is falling at a rate of around 2 per cent each week.

Last week, we received a new seasonal weather forecast that suggests April may be drier than previously anticipated. Our updated modelling indicates that if the dry weather continues into May and water usage remains at current levels, we could reach the trigger level for stage one restrictions by late May. *Please note, this is our worst-case scenario.*

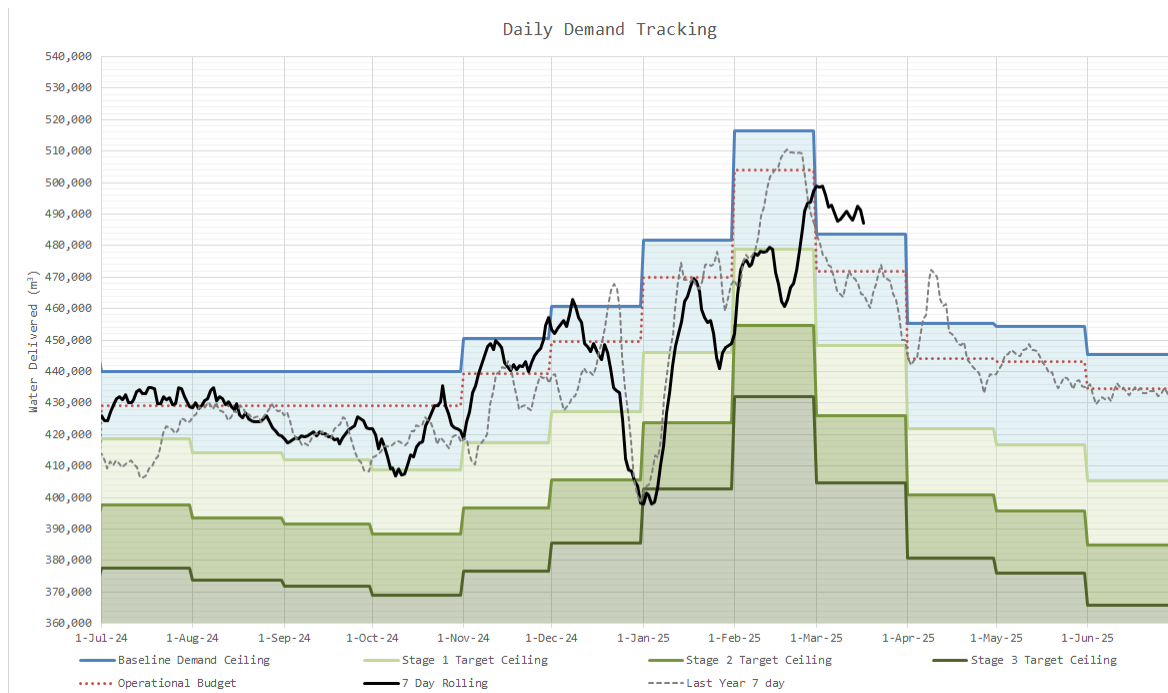
While the new seasonal weather forecast predicts a wetter-than-normal May, we are planning for the worst-case scenario due to the uncertainty of weather patterns.



Water demand:

Without normal rainfall in autumn, instead of demand lowering we are seeing water use remain at higher summer levels. Auckland's seven-day rolling average water demand is

currently 483 million litres a day, about 13 million litres a day more than normally expected for March.



Water savings campaign:

In the coming week, we will intensify our public water savings messages. While our 'Easy does it' campaign will continue to run on social media channels, we will extend the reach using radio advertising on a diverse mix of stations, including ethnic stations.

In addition, we will:

- Issue a media release with a strong call to action.
- Email customers with irrigation meters with targeted outdoor messaging.
- Encourage water savings in our April issue of Tapped In, which goes to all bill-paying customers.
- Directly contact our largest commercial customers.

Auckland Council has contacted us to say they will be running a campaign that targets people who rely on rain tanks for their water supply – encouraging them to check their

tank levels regularly and book their top-ups early. As their rain tanks run dry, demand at our water tanker filling stations rapidly increases.

Water production and leak management:

We are continuing to produce more water at our two Waikato water treatment plants to preserve the water stored in the dams. Our two Waikato plants are currently producing about 185 million litres of water a day, meeting around 38 per cent of the city's demand. We are also actively addressing leaks in our network, with 19,011 out of 19,051 reported leaks fixed since December.

Next week, we expect to open a non-potable tanker filling station in Māngere, close to our wastewater treatment plant. This filling station will draw water from a bore and will be able to service around 20 tankers a day – reducing demand on our potable water supply network.

We can all help by going easy with our water use - every bit counts.

We would encourage all elected members to help by raising awareness and encouraging water conversation. You could:

- Use personal networks, social media, and community meetings to spread the message about drought conditions and the need to use water wisely.
- Promote water-saving tips and best practices for households, businesses, and schools.
- Highlight success stories of individuals or communities reducing water use.

Please look for inspiration from the water-saving tips available on [Watercare's website](#), [Facebook](#), or [Instagram](#), as part of the 'Easy does it' campaign. A [recent post](#) from Councillor Bartley is a great example.