



# 2025 Summer Newsletter

## Small changes deliver big impacts on water resources

As summer temperatures rise, Hurunui’s rivers and aquifers are put under increasing strain. Reduced rainfall and heightened water demand mean that every drop counts more than ever.

The good news? Small, everyday changes can make a significant difference in protecting our precious water resources. These are good habits to practise every day - even when there aren’t water restrictions in place.

Simple changes like watering wisely, fixing water leaks, overflowing troughs and tanks promptly, sweeping outdoor areas rather than hosing and running full loads in washing machines and dishwashers are all easy ways to lessen the load on the district’s water supplies.

Watering or irrigating is best done before 8am or after 8pm. Doing this during the hot, dry hours during the day results in almost all of that precious water being lost to evaporation.

Council continuously monitors and manages Hurunui’s water resources. During dry periods when river flow is low, we need to protect our water sources and carefully manage our network to avoid placing unnecessary pressure on infrastructure,

which could lead to premature failure and increase costs for the community.

Council’s website has more helpful water saving tips and you can also stay updated with water level restrictions for your area at the link below:

<https://www.hurunui.govt.nz/roading-water/water/water-restrictions-in-hurunui-district>

### Household water consumption per activity:

Activity	Water used	Buckets
Bath	50 - 120 litres (half full)	5 - 12
Shower (8 mins)	70-160 litres	7-16
Front-loading washing machine	23 litres per kg of dry clothing	4-5
Leaking tap	200 litres per day	20
Hand watering by hose	600-900 litres per hour	60-90
Garden sprinkler	Up to 1500 litres per hour	150
Car wash with hose	100-300 litres	10-30
Filling swimming pool	20,000-50,000 litres	2,000-5,000

## Dividends to our ratepayers

### Did you know...

The Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa is budgeted to return a dividend of \$1.5m to the ratepayers of the Hurunui District this year.

\$60,000 goes to the Contestable Fund administered by Community Committees across the district and the Hanmer Springs Community Board (\$10,000 for each rating area). The rest provides a direct offset to rates by contributing to the funding of reserves and associated activities across the district.

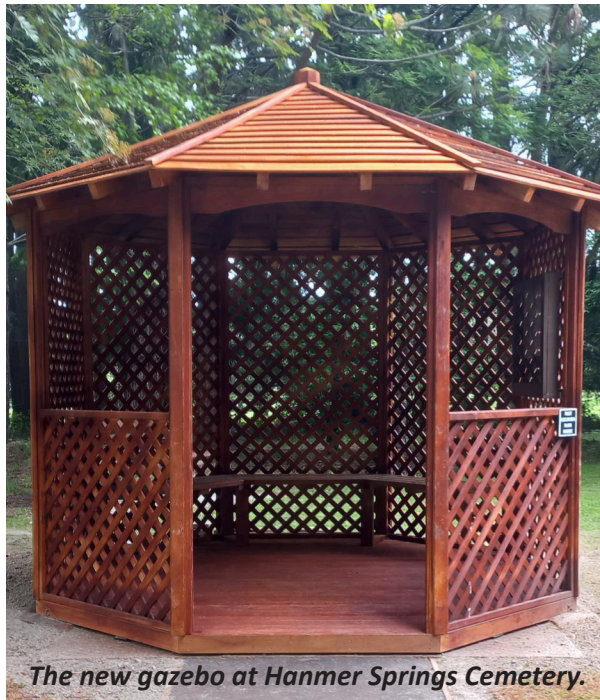


## New gazebo for Hanmer Springs cemetery

The Hanmer Springs Cemetery has been refreshed with a new gazebo to provide visitors with a sheltered place and seating for quiet reflection.

The old gazebo was over 20 years old and was the structure was deteriorating. The gazebo houses an information board, detailing a plan of the cemetery and a list of interments, along with a pamphlet holder, with cemetery information pamphlets.

This work was funded through the Long Term Plan.



*The new gazebo at Hanmer Springs Cemetery.*

## Amberley Water Treatment Update

The new open-top inlet chute and pipe have been installed at the Amberley Wastewater Treatment plant to replace the old inlet pipe. The new pipe will be much larger - and easier to clean.

The concrete foundation in the foreground of the photo is where a new shed is being built to accommodate the new inlet screen, which will be connected to the chute. The new inlet screen is much larger than the old one and means fewer blockages, fewer on-site visits by Utilities officers and will accommodate Amberley's growth.



*The old inlet pipe is lifted and removed.*

Are you a community group interested in hearing about how Council manages its recycling? If you would like someone to come and chat to your group, please ring 03 314 8816 or email [recycling@hurunui.govt.nz](mailto:recycling@hurunui.govt.nz)

## Toxic Algae

At this time of year toxic algae starts appearing in our waterways. Dog owners should be aware of it when walking their dogs by rivers, streams, ponds and lakes. The algae look like dark brown or black mats, with a slimy or velvety texture.

Toxic algae (also called cyanobacteria) produce toxins that can harm or even kill dogs, people and other animals.

Toxic algae was recently found in the Waiau River above the Waiau Bridge and the Waipara River.

To stay updated on the status of our Hurunui rivers, please go to <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/swimming-water-quality/toxic-algae/>

## 2024 - A year of water upgrades

Council remains committed to providing safe, tasty and clean water. Over the year, we've celebrated the completion of a number of new treatment plants and ground water bores, and major upgrades throughout the district. These works have been funded under the Long Term Plan. You can stay updated on Hurunui's Long Term projects on our interactive map at [www.hurunui.govt.nz/council/projects/long-term-plan-projects](http://www.hurunui.govt.nz/council/projects/long-term-plan-projects)