

Save every drop as water crisis begins

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Waiheke residents and visitors are advised to treat smelly as the new normal as a water crisis begins.

Water delivery companies are booked out for three weeks or more, with one company unable to deliver until February 16.

Waiheke Local Board chairperson Paul Walden said people need to reduce water use, because there is no mechanism to increase the rate of delivery or stop visitors arriving over the busy summer holiday period.

“People need to do whatever they possibly can to conserve water - it might be washing in the sea or showering at the beach.

“We all did that every summer 20 or 30 years ago - it was just how you got through.

“Being smelly on Waiheke is okay at this time of year,” Walden said.

Since a drought in 2013, the local board has installed filtered drinking water taps at parks, so water is now available at Matiatia, Surfdale Hall, Palm Beach playground, the Old Blackpool School Hall, Onetangi Sports Park, Little Oneroa, Tawaipareira Reserve, and Whakanewha Regional Park.

Walden said people should use showers at Onetangi Beach, Palm Beach, Little Oneroa Beach, and at Onetangi Sports Park to pre-

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Paul Walden

serve supplies at home.

Washing clothes and flushing the toilet takes large amounts of water, so people need to do all they can do reduce water use in these areas, he said.

Water from the shower can be caught in a bucket and used to flush toilets or do washing, while washing water can also be saved and used for the garden or toilet.

The aquifer that provides bore water is healthy, so people with bores are urged to share water with neighbours.

Some water delivery companies are offering emergency deliveries for vulnerable people in serious need.

However, one of the island's water delivery companies, Waiheke Aquifers, closed after flooding in March and April and does not expect to open again until the end of January.

Walden said without this service and with Metservice predicting a dry summer, people need to be prepared for water shortages.

“There's an absolute limitation on how much water we can get delivered.”



Sonia Christiansen takes a shower at Palm Beach, a move that can help save water at home.

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