



welcome, kia ora, talofa lava, fakalofa lahi atu, kia orana, malo e lelei, bula vinaka, malo ni, dobrodošli, 欢迎

Trolleys plague Waitakere waterways

Abandoned and dumped shopping trolleys pollute our neighbourhoods and streams and are a growing concern to our community.

Waitakere City Council intends to develop a new bylaw to make supermarkets and shopping malls more accountable for their trolleys.

In a recent stream clean-up by the Council's Solid Waste unit, 44 trolleys were removed from just two Henderson streams. Costs for the recovery of the dumped trolleys will be charged to their owners.



"The Council spends thousands of dollars a year removing trolleys (worth about \$400 each) from local streams and streets, and retailers pay even more to replace the trolleys that are taken from their premises," says Councillor Brenda Brady who is advocating at regional and national levels for the control of shopping trolleys. "We're hoping to find a solution to the problem that works for everyone concerned."

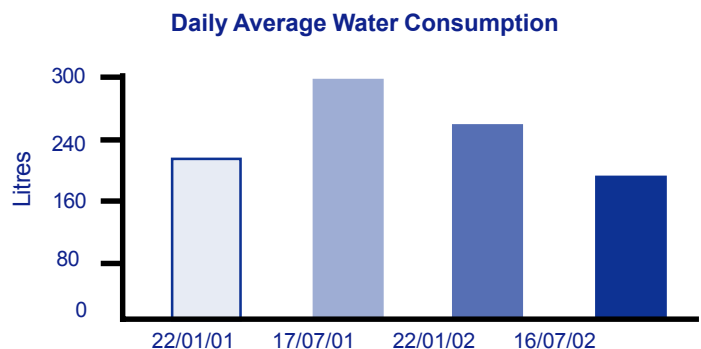
Glen Innes Pak 'n' Save has already introduced wheel locks on its trolleys to prevent them being taken off site. It is hoped that the proposed new bylaw in Waitakere City will encourage retailers to have similar control devices.



Keeping track of your water consumption

A new feature of your water bill is the Water Consumption Chart. This chart (see example) shows a household's daily average water consumption and compares the current billing period with the previous three.

The aim of the chart is to help you easily determine if your consumption is increasing. If it is, please contact the Council Call Centre on 839 0400 for information on how to become more water efficient and how to check for leaks. Alternatively, log on to www.waitakere.govt.nz and check out the EcoWater section.



EXAMPLE ONLY

Water-wise gardening

Waitakere's rainfall is regular enough that our gardens should be able to survive with minimal extra watering. Here are some simple tips on creating a really water-efficient garden:

- mulch - use bark, untreated wood chips or shredded garden waste to reduce water evaporation from around plant bases
- plant native flora - it is better adapted to both dry and damp conditions
- add compost to your soil to improve water retention
- use rainwater collected from the roof to water plants (for information on using rainwater, contact the Council Call Centre, 839 0400)
- use "dripper" type irrigation systems if possible as this is generally more water efficient than sprinklers. A watering can is also efficient
- if you use a sprinkler, use a timer to ensure you don't water more than is necessary
- if you do need to water certain areas of your garden, do so in the early morning or late evening to minimise evaporation
- create wind shelters and shade for your plants to reduce evaporation
- group plants together according to their watering needs, so that you don't over-water those that don't need it
- lawns, generally, do not need watering



What is EcoWater?

EcoWater Solutions is the unit of Council responsible for water supply, stormwater and wastewater. It provides the following services:

- water supply, wastewater disposal and stormwater management
- water meter connections, relocations and locating meters
- wastewater and stormwater connections
- water meter reading, billing and special reading (outside the normal reading period)
- water meter testing
- maintenance services
- education



New meter readers

Wells Electrical Ltd are the new water meter readers for Waitakere City. Although Wells have read meters for many organisations throughout New Zealand, it is the first time they have provided this service in Waitakere. Please assist their six-monthly visits to your property by keeping the water meter box clear of obstacles and vegetation and making sure dogs are kept under control.

what do you think?

Your comments are valuable to us and help improve our services.

Please feel free to contact us by emailing ecowater@waitakere.govt.nz, or by writing to EcoWater Customer Services, Waitakere City Council, Private Bag 93109, Henderson, WAITAKERE CITY.