

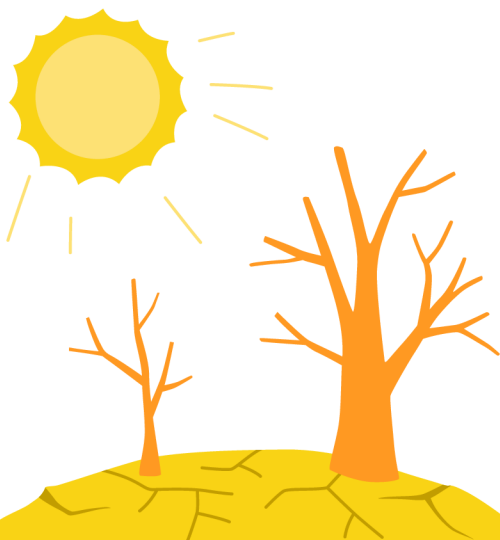
What to expect in a drought

In 2021 the Waikato experienced more than 105 days when humidity and temperatures were too hot for stock.

Many places in New Zealand will see more than 80 days per year above 25°C by 2100.

Heat stress also impacts plant growth. Agricultural and horticultural industries would both be affected by reduced yields.

Heat related deaths also occur in Aotearoa, it is essential to keep hydrated and cool.



See booklet
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During a wildfire

Don't wait for an official warning. If you see smoke or fire, leave immediately and call 111.

If you have time, you can turn on sprinklers, fill gutters with water, and wet down materials like firewood that may fuel the fire.

Visit NIWA's website for 35 day drought forecasting.



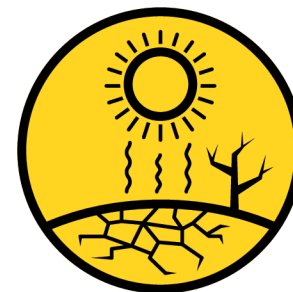
Sources:

royalsociety.org.nz
info.health.nz
mpi.govt.nz

For more information about climate change, check the Waikato District Council website.

DROUGHTS AND RISING TEMPERATURES

NGA TAURAKI ME TE PIKINGA O TE PAAMAHANA



In this booklet:

- What to expect in a drought
- How to stay cool in extreme heat
- Drought and heat projections for the Waikato
- How should we prepare?

How to stay cool in extreme heat

- Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol.
- Stay out of the sun.
- Eat frozen food, or freeze fruits like bananas to eat.
- Check in on your neighbours, older relatives, and those most at risk.
- Keep your house cool by opening your windows and closing blinds or curtains. Install shutters.
- Exercise early morning or late evening.
- Never leave children or pets unattended in parked cars.
- Even a few hours of exposure to temperatures as low as 31 degrees could be high risk in humid conditions.
- Extreme heat can cause heat rash, cramps and sunstroke, and exacerbate existing illnesses.
- Cats and dogs may pant excessively, or appear restless/lethargic. Stay aware and know the signs.



Drought and heat projections for the Waikato

The Waikato recorded its driest decade from 2011 to 2021. 2024 was New Zealand's 10th-warmest year on record.

The upper North Island will likely experience an increase in days with very high and extreme fire danger by 2040. The fire season is likely to start earlier and finish later in the year.

Under more severe climate change scenarios, the Ministry of Primary Industries provides support for farmers on their practices and management.

For example, farmers may consider more irrigation, shifts in production timing, experimenting with different pasture species and forage crops.



How should we prepare?



- Build resilience in your own home by installing a rainwater storage system.
- To minimise moisture loss in your garden, add mulch or bark, and choose plants that are drought resilient.
- Limit showers to four minutes or less.
- Make sure your washing machines and toilets have a good water rating.
- Check for leaks to prevent potentially thousands of litres of water waste.
- Maximise your rain catchment by cleaning all your gutters regularly and checking for leaks and blockages.

Reduce wildfire risk

- Keep your grass short and remove dry plants and debris from around your house.
- 98% of wildfires in Aotearoa are started by people. Check its ok before lighting a fire checkitsalright.nz.
- Plan your escape route in the event of a fire, and make a plan with the people in your household/neighbourhood.