



## Unit 5: Matapoporehia ō tātou wai | Treasure our water

### Topic introduction for teachers

#### Key ideas in this topic

- We use water in many different ways in Heretaunga District.
- There is a finite amount of clean, fresh water in the world.
- We can all do little things to care for our water - every action makes a difference.
- We need to rethink how we use water, to ensure a safe, sustainable future.

#### Background

This unit encourages students to think about how we can use our water more wisely, and look after its health.

#### The world's water

On a global scale, fresh water is scarce. 97% of the world's water is seawater, 2% is frozen, polluted or difficult to access, and only 1% is drinkable.



More than 97%  
of the world's  
water is sea water.



2% is frozen, polluted  
or somewhere we  
can't reach.



Less than 1% of  
the world's water is  
available to drink.

We take our abundant fresh water for granted. But many people in the world don't have access to clean water from a tap. They might have to walk a long way to collect water from wells. They might have no washing machine or showers. Toilets in most developing countries are open ditches or holes in the ground, and waste water isn't treated.

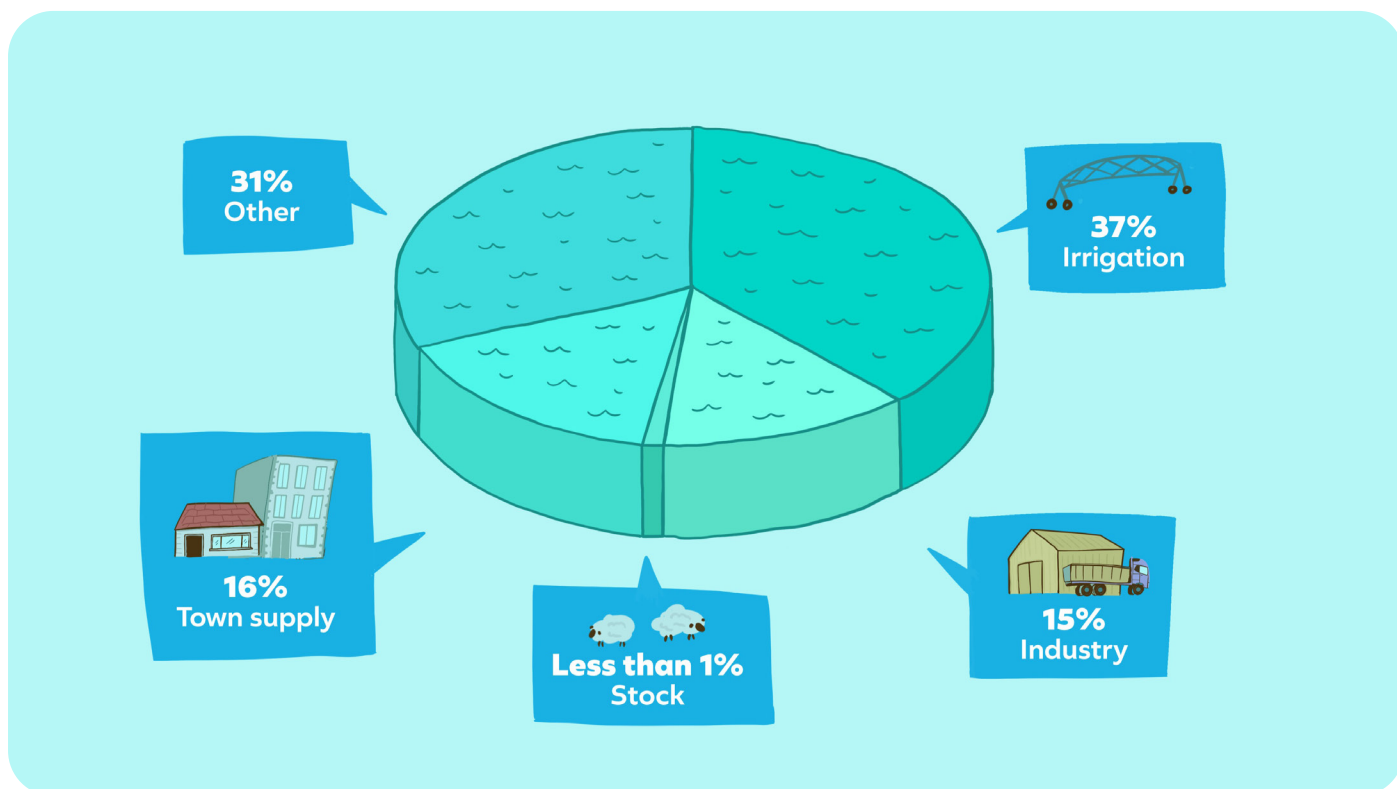
### New Zealand's water

In comparison to many other countries, New Zealand has abundant fresh water. Our drinking water is treated, stored and monitored so we don't run out.

But our water is vulnerable to drought and pollution. We have to be mindful of how much water we use, and do our bit to make sure the water in our aquifer, rivers, estuaries and ocean stays clean.

### Water use in Hastings District

In our district, we rely on water for food-growing, drinking, manufacturing, and so much more.



On average, each person uses more than 250 litres of water a day.



There are lots of small ways we can save and look after our water.

<p><b>Gluggy grease</b> Tipping oil down the sink blocks our pipes. Re-use or compost it instead.</p>	<p><b>Green gardens</b> Plant a native rain garden to soak up stormwater.</p>	<p><b>Catch it</b> Collect rainwater and use it for watering your plants.</p>
<p><b>Quick rinse</b> Take short showers – 3 minutes or less.</p>	<p><b>Twist it</b> Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth.</p>	<p><b>Stop sprinkling</b> Sprinklers can use 1000 litres an hour. Water direct instead.</p>
<p><b>3 Ps</b> Pee, toilet paper and poo – nothing else down the loo.</p>	<p><b>Get on the grass</b> Clean your car on the lawn to keep soap suds out of our streams.</p>	<p><b>Fill 'er up</b> Only run the dishwasher or washing machine when it's full.</p>

## Activities in this unit

- Water-wise challenge
- How much water in the world?
- *Tuna and Pātiki* book chat
- Grow a rain garden

## Other ideas

### Before your visit to Waiaroha

- Introduce the idea that there are international days that focus on a global issue. Remind students about special days in Aotearoa eg Anzac Day, Matariki or Waitangi Day. Challenge the class to find some global days that involve water, such as World Water Day (22 March) or International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May).
- Show the class some photos of global water issues, linked below. Ask the students what they think is happening in the pictures. What are some of the problems? In New Zealand, do we have the same challenges? Make posters or leaflets displaying global world issues.

Photos of global water issues and projects	
Cape town water crisis 2017-18	<a href="https://www.circleofblue.org/2018/world/cape-towns-water-catastrophe-photo-essay/">https://www.circleofblue.org/2018/world/cape-towns-water-catastrophe-photo-essay/</a>
World water day - leaving no one behind, 2019	<a href="https://medium.com/usaid-global-waters/photo-essay-world-water-day-2019-leaving-no-one-behind-74a997fe9401">https://medium.com/usaid-global-waters/photo-essay-world-water-day-2019-leaving-no-one-behind-74a997fe9401</a>
Feed the future and water the world	<a href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/usaidwater/sets/72157718308036532/">https://www.flickr.com/photos/usaidwater/sets/72157718308036532/</a>
World water day, March 2022	<a href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/usaidwater/albums/72157713056423933">https://www.flickr.com/photos/usaidwater/albums/72157713056423933</a>
2022 water for the world	<a href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/usaidwater/albums/72177720296119123">https://www.flickr.com/photos/usaidwater/albums/72177720296119123</a>

- Research a water issue from the North Island and from the South Island. Prompts to use when researching: clean drinking water, waste-water treatment, cows and nitrogen run-off, stormwater capacity and flooding, impermeable surfaces.
- Choose a local water issue that is important to you. For example: clean water, stormwater and streams, watering the garden, saving water in the house. Make a video about the issue and share it with the class.

### **At Waiaroha**

- In Te Whare Waiaroha, watch the film about sustainability.
- Post your opinion on the 'Have your say' wall. What do you love most about water?
- Find three ways that water is being cared for at Waiaroha. Clue: Look for the outdoor info panel at the far end of Te Whare Waiaroha.

### **After your visit to Waiaroha**

- 'Adopt' an animal that's found in Heretaunga's wetlands or braided rivers. Research what we can do to better look after it and its habitat.
- Take action as a class or community:
  - Adopt a stream. Find out what lives there and take action to clean it up
  - Only rain down the drain! Get the message out! Stencil it around local stormwater drains.
  - Make a video about your school's efforts to save or care for our water.
  - Find out about how other schools overseas, in Aotearoa or in Hawke's Bay are helping to care for our water. Invite them to your school to share the findings.