

Water meter installation on schedule

Water restrictions in the Waipa could be consigned to history.



MIKE BAIN

Water technician Reggae Tawera shows a water meter about to be installed onto the water inlet of a Leamington property.

As soon as residents start realising how much water they use and the cost involved, watering the garden may become less important.

Progress on the \$3.9 million installation of water meters into the urban areas of Te Awamutu and Cambridge is on target to be completed by the end of June.

Waipa District Council project engineer Carl Smith said two-thirds of Te Awamutu and Leamington have been completed by contractors.

"We will have a major focus on Cambridge once Leamington is complete," said Smith.

Water meters have been at Ohaupo since 1991 and Pirongia since 1997. Most of Waipa's rural, industrial and commercial users have also had water meters for years.

The installation of the meters has allowed council to upgrade some of its infrastructure relating to water supply to dwellings.

Most notable is the replacement of the taps which are now fitted alongside new meters.

The water meter sits within a box underground known as a manifold and is usually covered by a blue lid marked, "meter".

Residents who have meters installed won't receive any bills to pay until council's financial year starts in June 2018.

Bills will only arrive after two mock invoices have been sent showing how much water has been used – and advising what it would have cost.

Mock bills help realise how much water is being used and Smith said meters make the cost of water more transparent.

“When a mock bill arrives, it shows people how much has been used and how much that water would cost once separate charging kicks in. That’s why mock bills are helpful.”

And good news concerning the mystery Alpha St leak. The issue has been resolved by using “acoustic leak detection” technology to discover the source of the leak: a very old pipe, more than 50 years old, which does not appear on any council plans.

It is now capped.

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