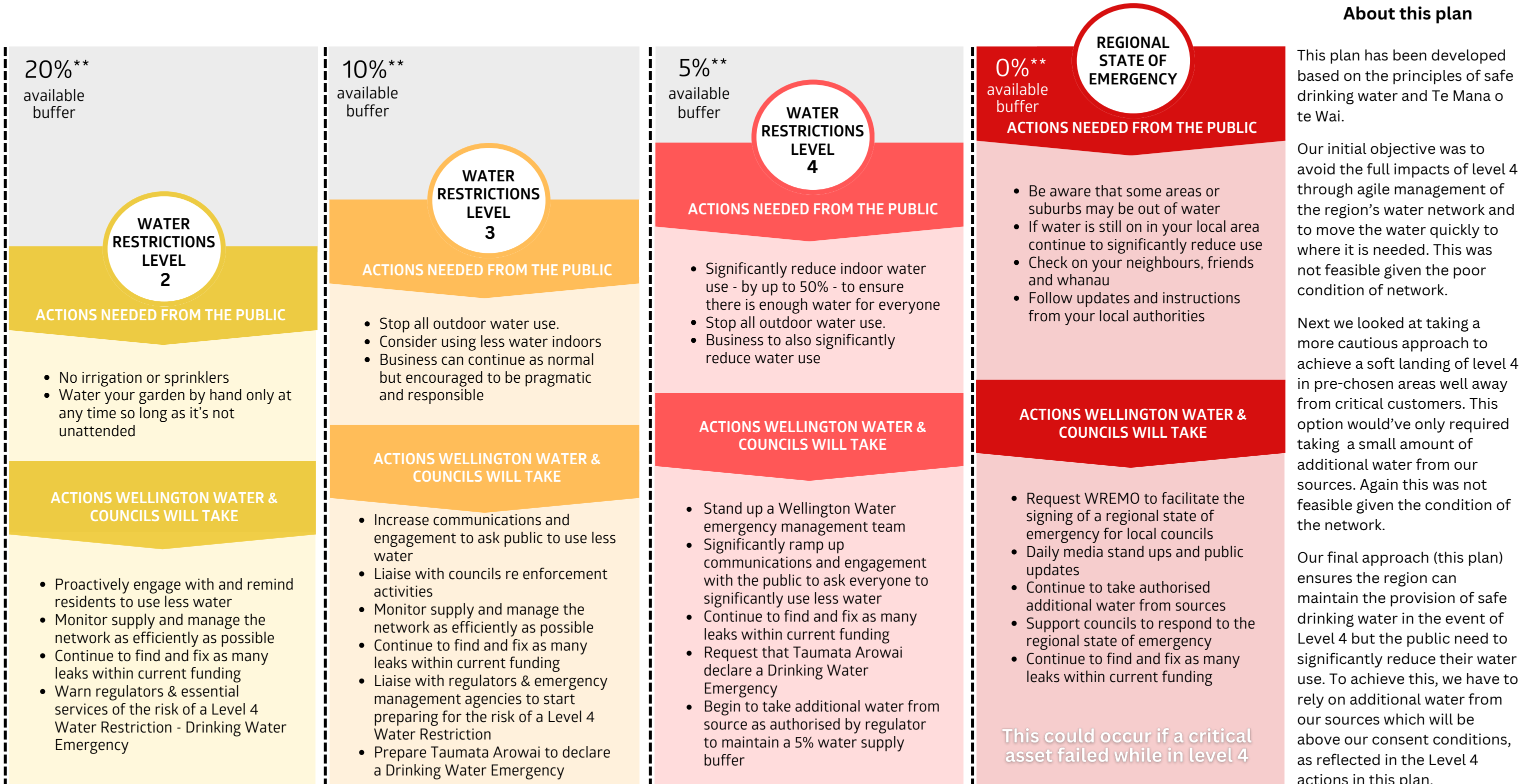


Our plan for this summer's acute water shortage

Updated: Jan 25th 2024

Available water supply buffer

Our region's drinking water supply system has a finite capacity. We can only treat and supply a certain amount of safe drinking water on any given day. This includes a "buffer" that allows for varying levels in daily water usage, unplanned outages, or planned maintenance work. The increase in leaks in the network means the available 'buffer' is becoming increasingly tight, particularly over the summer when supply is lower. The percentages in the grey boxes below indicate the buffer available at each level of water restrictions. As the buffer reduces, the risk of not having enough safe water for our communities increases. The risk of the water not being safe also increases due to the pressure in the network getting too low, allowing contaminants to enter the system. This would pose a risk to public health and result in boil water notices.



About this plan

This plan has been developed based on the principles of safe drinking water and Te Mana o te Wai.

Our initial objective was to avoid the full impacts of level 4 through agile management of the region's water network and to move the water quickly to where it is needed. This was not feasible given the poor condition of network.

Next we looked at taking a more cautious approach to achieve a soft landing of level 4 in pre-chosen areas well away from critical customers. This option would've only required taking a small amount of additional water from our sources. Again this was not feasible given the condition of the network.

Our final approach (this plan) ensures the region can maintain the provision of safe drinking water in the event of Level 4 but the public need to significantly reduce their water use. To achieve this, we have to rely on additional water from our sources which will be above our consent conditions, as reflected in the Level 4 actions in this plan.

*This dashboard and modelling applies to Wellington City, Porirua, Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt.

**The buffer is one key indicator of risk, and is offered as a guide only. Other factors are monitored as part of level risk assessment. The buffer is reviewed weekly.