



Media Release

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New irrigation systems to save water

Alexandra residents may have noticed sprinklers operating more than usual outside the Central Stories Museum recently.

“It’s all in the name of efficiency,” CODC Parks Manager Geoff King said. “Council is about to install the last of an automatic irrigation system at Pioneer Park and the ground needs more irrigation than normal to soften the ground and prepare the grass for reuse once the irrigation system is installed.”

CODC has been installing more efficient irrigation systems around the district to improve management of grass surfaces and as part of the drive to reduce peak water demand and make better use of water.

“The benefits have been immediate. We are using less water and the grass is looking better,” Mr King said.

“A good example is Seaton Square in Clyde. We got rid of the inefficient water gun and installed controlled irrigation. The results have been very pleasing. Seaton Square has not browned off at all this summer and we have used far less water than in other years despite hot dry conditions,” Mr King said.

Council is also working to get park irrigation off town water supplies. Irrigation on Anderson Park in Cromwell, Pioneer Park and parts of Molyneux Park in Alexandra already uses untreated bore water. Work to switch Alpha Street Reserve in Cromwell onto bore water is well underway and money has also been set aside for a bore in the Molyneux Park area of Alexandra.

Central Otago District Council Water Services Manager Russell Bond said moving irrigation onto bore was showing cost and water savings.

“Despite the hot dry weather no sprinkler bans have been needed so far this summer,” said Mr Bond.

“Residents also appear to be making better use of water for irrigation now that they can choose to water sensibly when they need to, rather than being restricted to odd and even day watering used in past years and watering on ‘their day’ regardless of whether their garden needed it.”

Keeping our parks and gardens looking good can place a huge demand on water supplies, said Mr King. Council has a responsibility to lead by example with water management and anything that can be done to make better use of water is good for everyone.

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