

New Zealand's water resources

Where is our water?

550km³ is the average
annual total rainfall
in New Zealand

That's **2.5x** more rainfall than the
world average... **we are**
water rich!

40km³ stored
permanently as
snow and ice

110km³ of water is
returned to the atmosphere by
evaporation and transpiration

How much water is that?

1km³ of water is equivalent
to 400,000 olympic
size swimming
pools

320km³ stored in lakes

440km³ per annum
runs in rivers to the sea

615km³ stored
as groundwater

How much water we get

550km³
(annually)

98%
is unused*

2% used*

How we use water

10km³ (annually)

51% Irrigation

22% Other

14% Domestic

13% Industrial

Source: Ministry for the Environment, National water allocation statistics for environmental reporting 2016.

