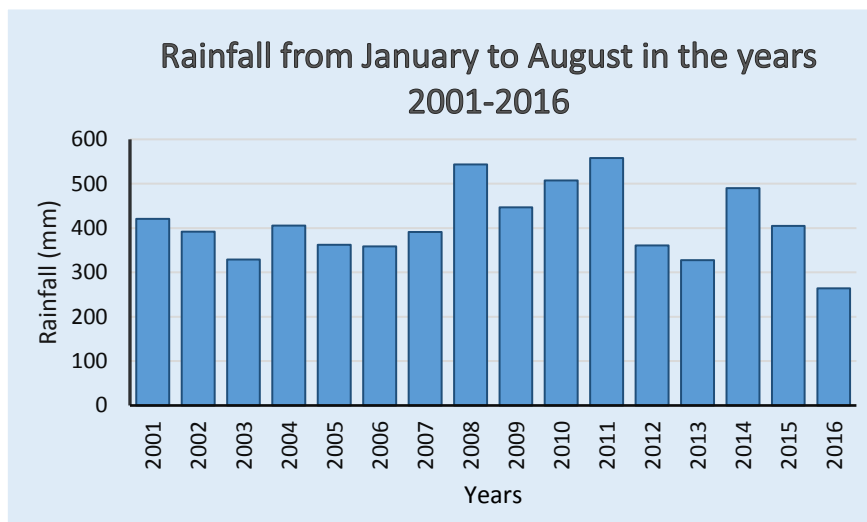


WHY WE HAVE WATER RESTRICTIONS WHEN IT'S RAINING

Since Connect Saint Helena Ltd imposed legal water restrictions on 1 September 2016, there has been some rain. You may be wondering why the restrictions remain in place.

The overall amount of water available remains very low. The Met Office figures show that 2016 has seen the lowest level of rainfall since 2001. The graph below shows the rainfall figures for the first 8 months of each of the last 15 years. **The rainfall this year has been significantly lower than even during the drought of 2013.**



In 2013 the situation was critical and the restrictions on water use were severe. Water use was restricted to an absolute minimum, farmers were disconnected, crops and animals were dying and vast quantities of bottled water were being imported.

With so little rainfall, the situation in 2016 is very serious and we are currently pumping and bowsering water between locations to maintain island wide supply. However, the reasons why restrictions are, at present, less severe than in 2013 is due to infrastructure improvements made by Connect and better management of the water resources available.

Since the drought of 2013 (which came immediately after Connect's formation!) our priority has been to achieve greater water security for all through a 3 step planned programme:

1. **STEP 1 Reducing loss.**

We have relined 5 reservoirs where the linings were known to be beyond their useful life and leaking. We have also introduced a planned maintenance programme which, although having a long way to go, will reduce loss from leaking pipes by ensuring they are better maintained.



2. STEP 2 Maximising capture

We have made significant design improvements to water catchments at Oak Bank, Osbornes, Leggs, Lower Wells and Ladies Bath. This means that more water is captured and directed to reservoirs during the rainy season.



3. STEP 3 Increasing storage capacity (reservoirs).

The capacity of Harpers 3 reservoir has been increased from 8500m³ to 20000m³. We are also looking to begin construction works to increase the storage capacity of the Hutts Gate Reservoir in October this year and designs are in hand for a further 5 reservoirs to be built or expanded. All is subject to funding of course.



We monitor water consumption and reservoir levels on a daily basis so we have a much more accurate understanding of the levels of demand and availability.

The one thing that we have no control over is the rain. Although we have seen some rainfall over the last few weeks, it is only sufficient to maintain the already low levels of stored water. We need sustained heavy rain **and** reduced consumption now to ensure that we will have enough water through the summer.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd asks for your continued co-operation in restricting your water consumption. The ban on use of water for any purpose other than basic domestic use remains in force. However, at the present time we are still able to consider exemption certificates for commercial farmers. If you wish to be assessed for an exemption, please contact Paul Duncan, Water Operations Manager, on 22255 or e-mail paul.duncan@connect.co.sh. All such requests will be individually assessed.

