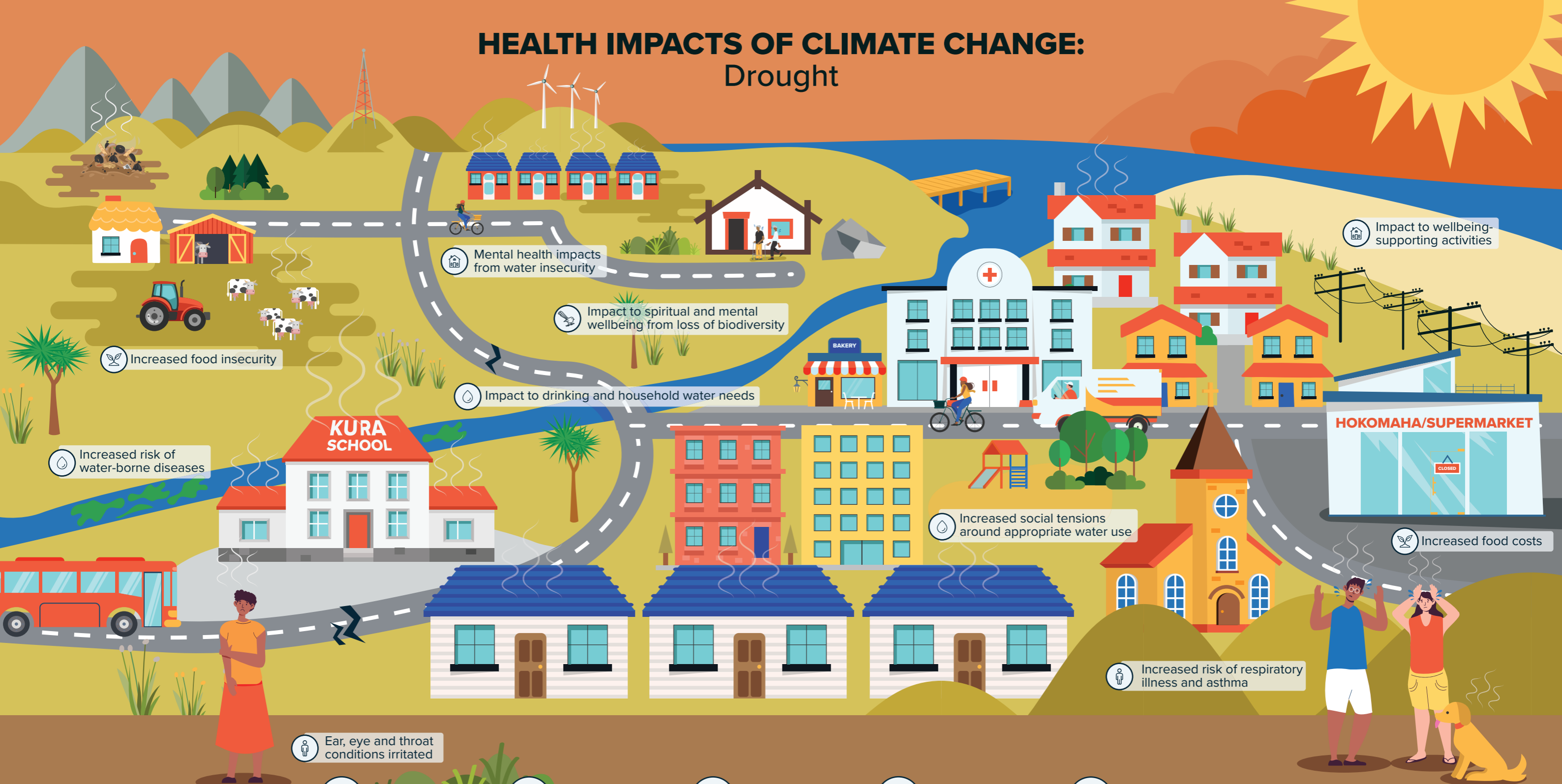


HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: Drought



Ear, eye and throat conditions irritated

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES
Drought and water insecurity can impact overall health and wellbeing, particularly in rural communities. Drought can also impact wellbeing-supporting activities such as gardening or sports, which can impact for mental health.

WATER
Drought reduces water access and can also increase groundwater contamination risks, due to reduced flow and increased erosion.

LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS
Drought can impact the availability and cost of fresh nutritious food, increasing food insecurity and making fresh food less available to low-income households, furthering health inequities. Drought can also decrease the productivity of land, causing financial stress to farmers and agricultural workers.

BIODIVERSITY
Biodiversity loss due to drought/increased temperatures/fires is impactful to the health and wellbeing of everyone. A particular concern for Māori is damage or loss of indigenous ecosystems, which can impact spiritual and mental wellbeing, as well as cultural identity. Natural environments are significant sources of wellbeing to the community, and their loss can have huge impacts.

DIRECT IMPACTS
Drought can result in poor air quality, due to the dry conditions and wind storms, increasing risks of emergency department visits and hospitalisation for people with respiratory illnesses and asthma. Additionally, drought and wind can exacerbate ear, eye, and throat conditions.