

Future directions for safe drinking-water in New Zealand

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Why drinking water matters

Ko te wai te ora
ngā mea katoa

Water is the life
giver of all
things

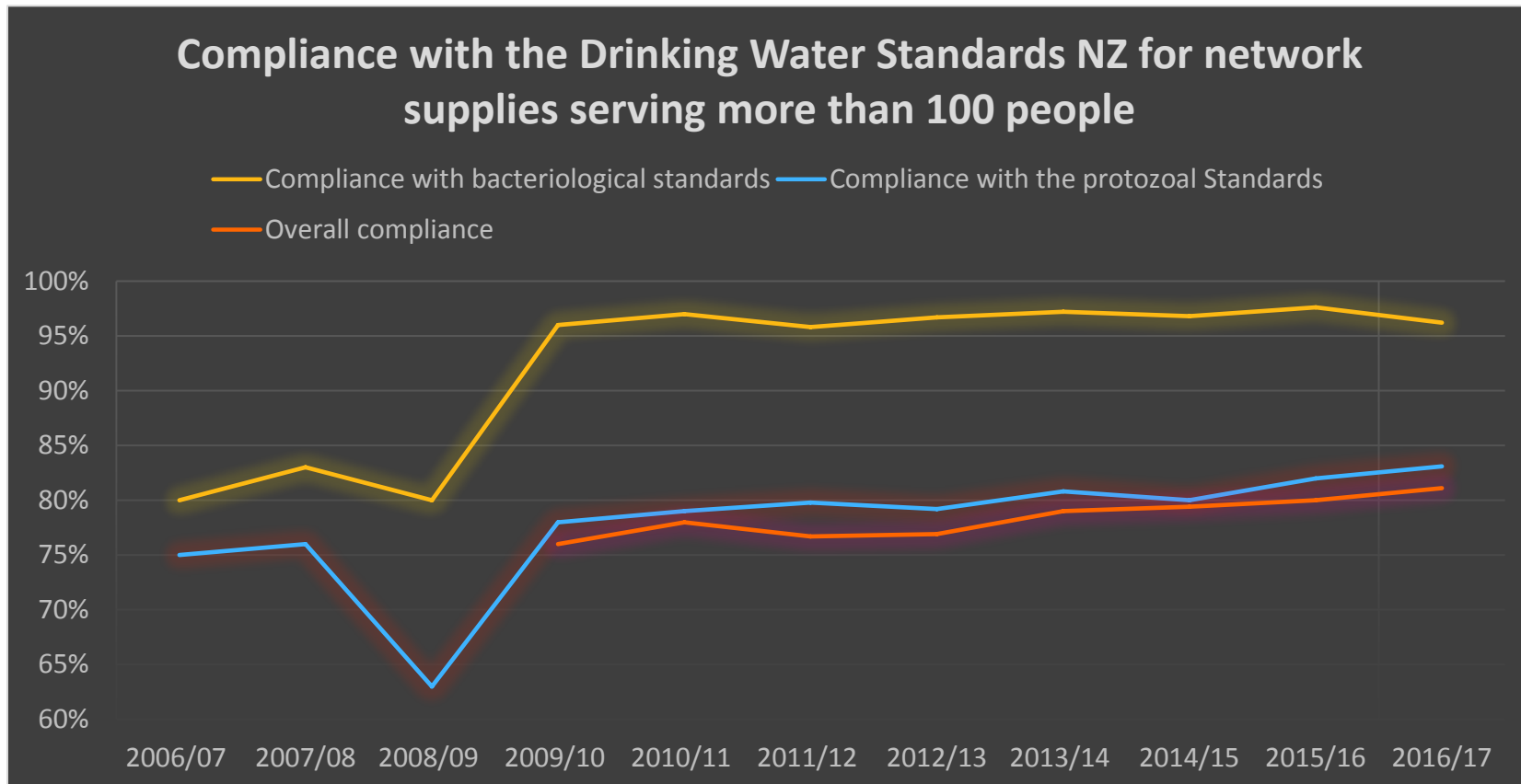
Where have we come from?



Drinking water regulation in NZ

- Largely voluntary regime before 2007
- Current regulatory system
- Different kinds of suppliers

Compliance trends



Havelock North gastroenteritis outbreak

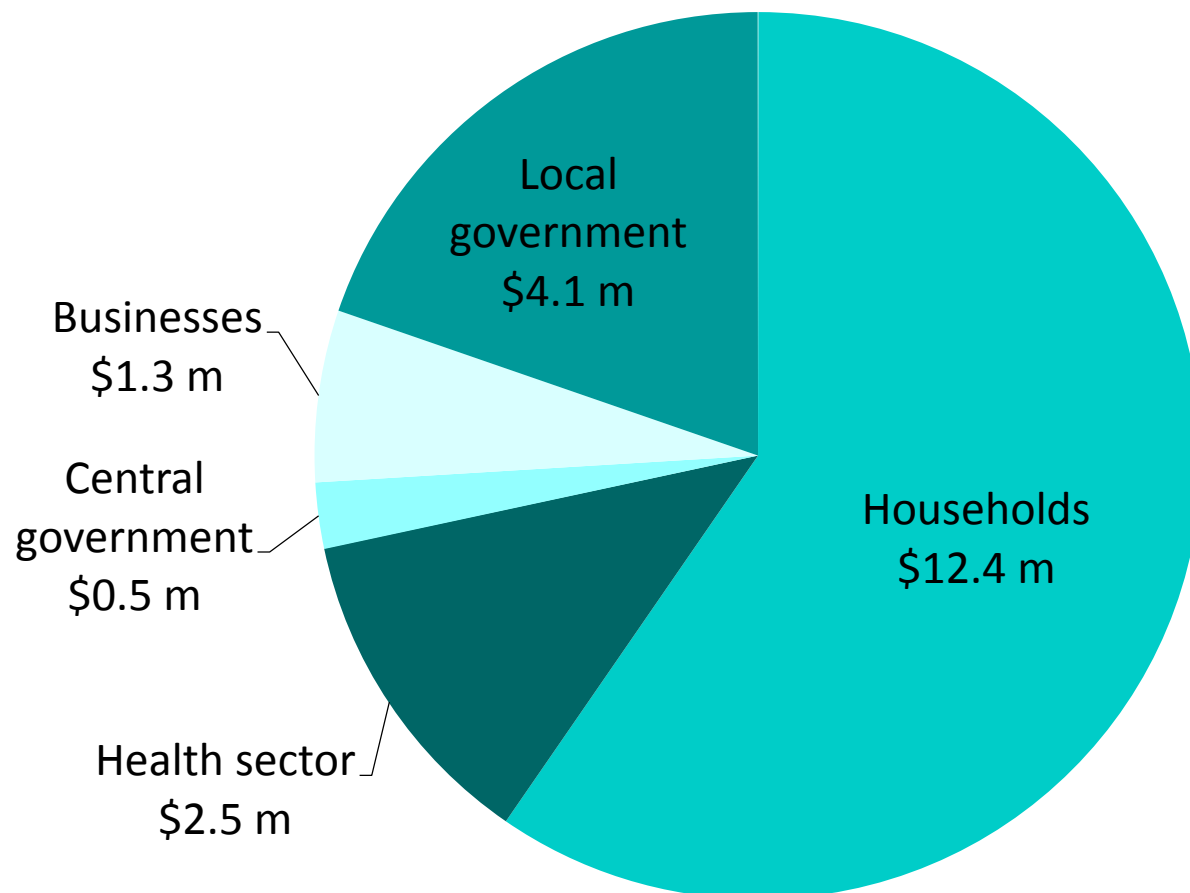
- August 2016
- More than 5000 people fell ill
- Up to four associated deaths



**REPORT OF THE HAVELOCK NORTH
DRINKING WATER INQUIRY: STAGE 2**

DECEMBER 2017

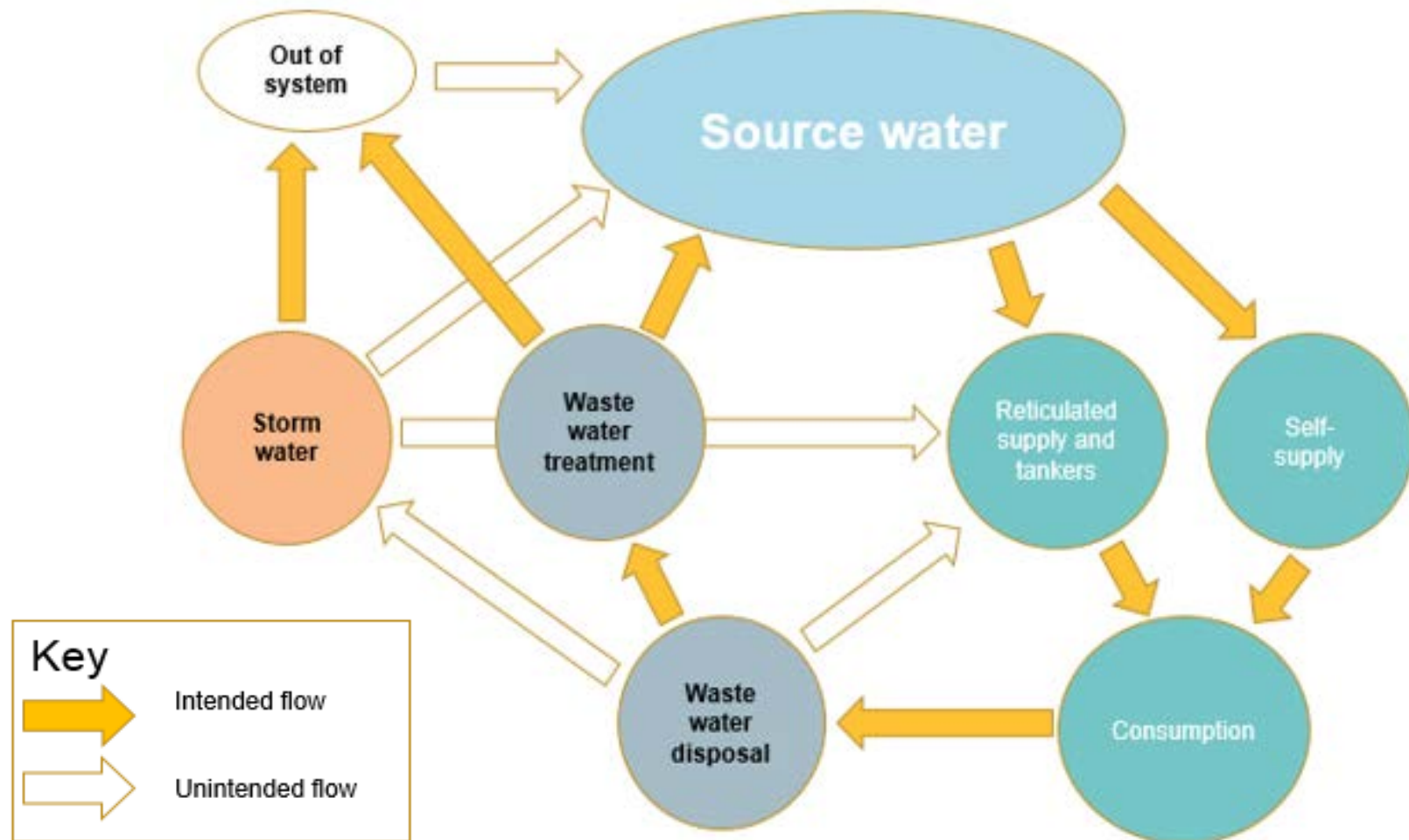
Economic cost of outbreak: \$21 million



Challenges for the current drinking water system

- Unaffordability of infrastructure
- Capability and capacity challenges
- Shortcomings in regulation

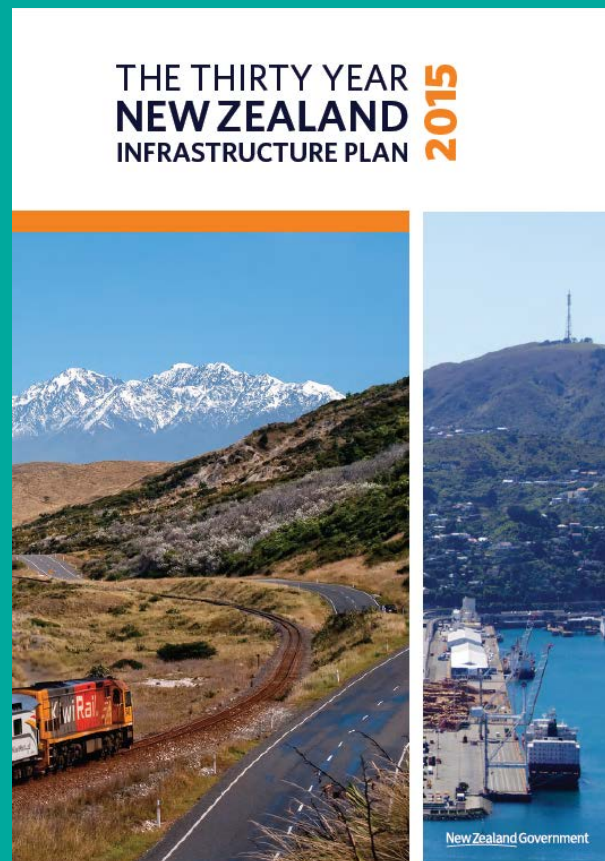
Three waters system



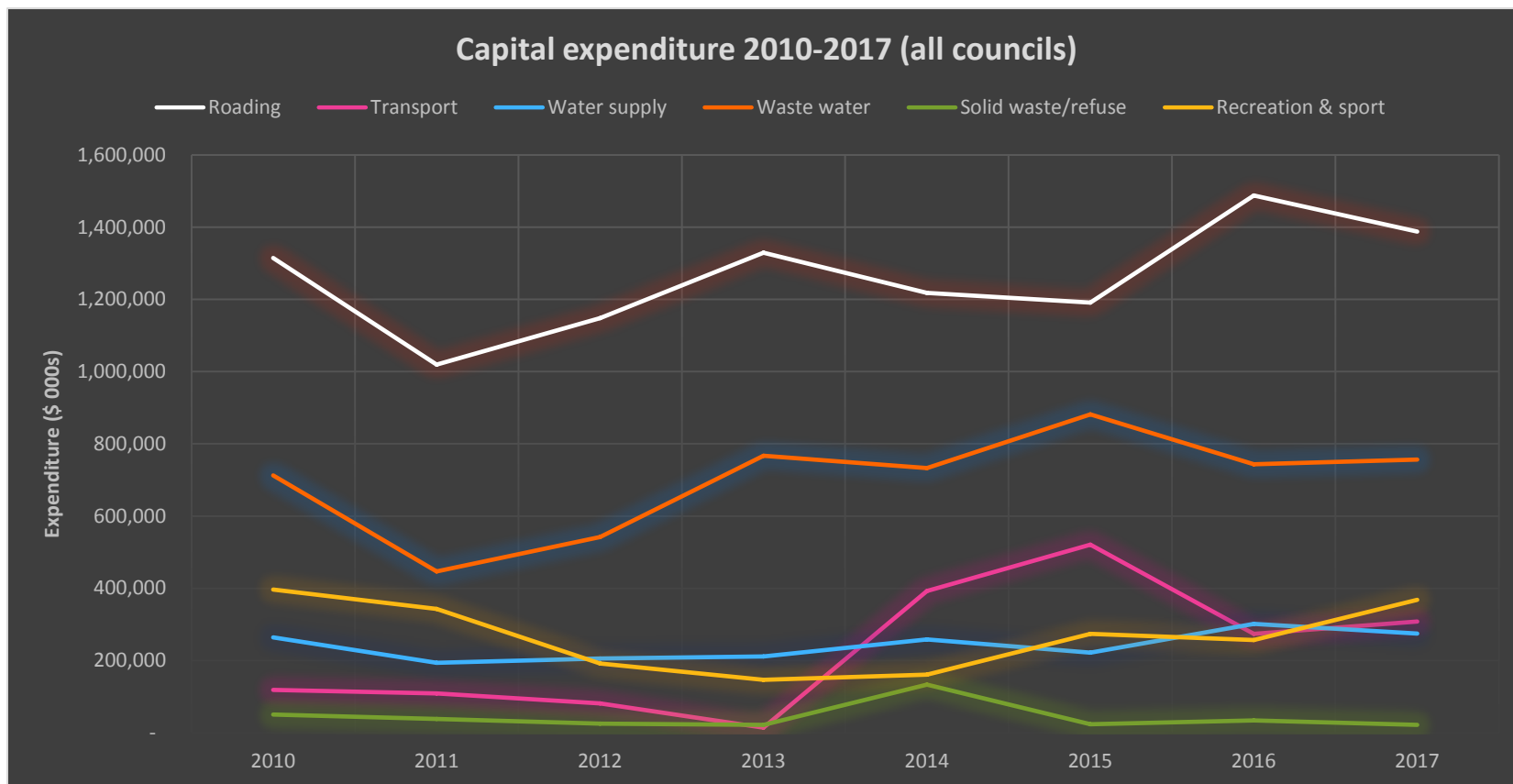
The infrastructure challenge

“Over the next 30 years we face some big challenges”

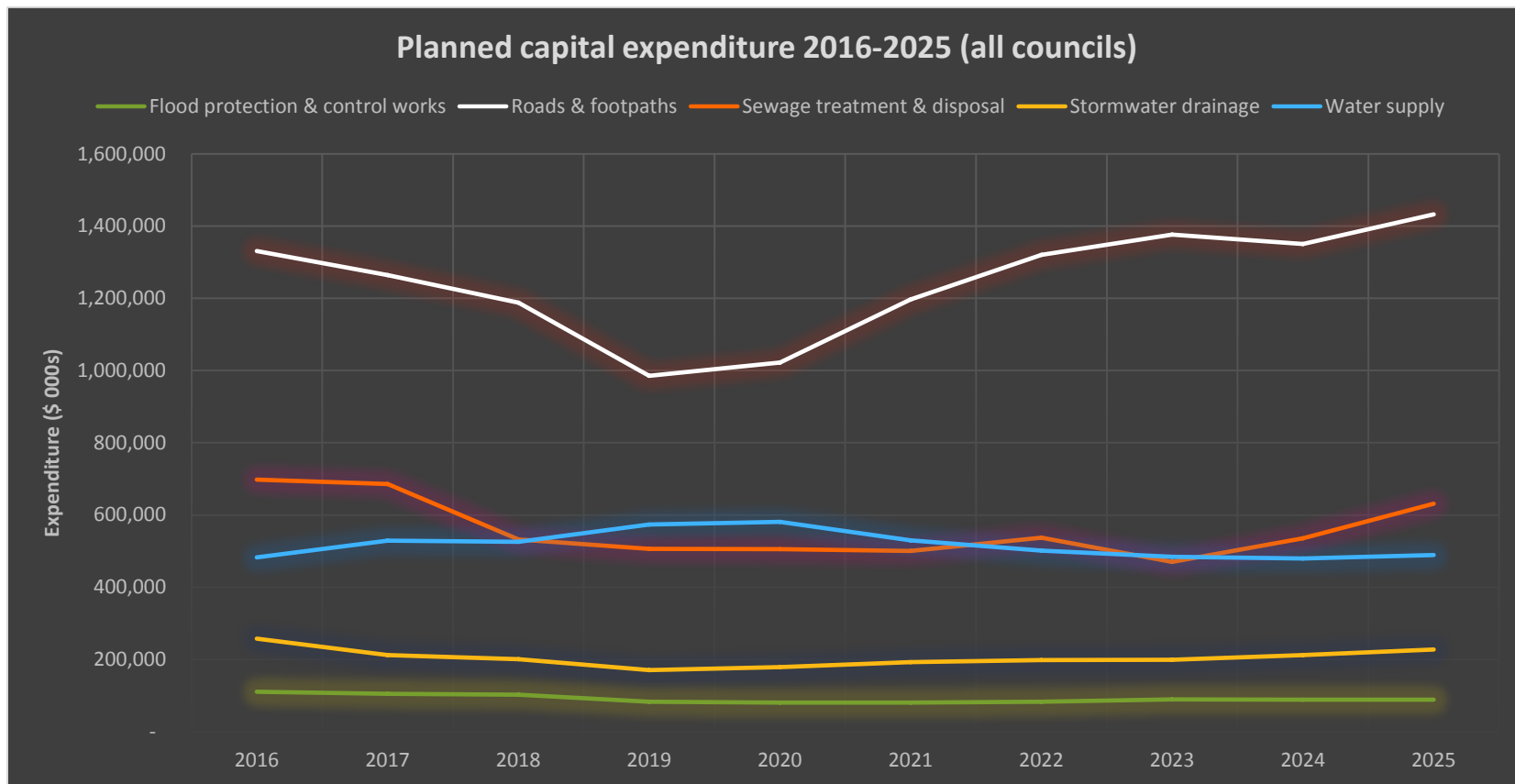
National Infrastructure Unit, 2015



Trends in local infrastructure investment



Trends in local infrastructure investment



Where are we at?

Government response to Havelock North Inquiry recommendations

- 62 recommended actions
- Two broad types of recommendation:
 - Operational and management changes
 - Regulatory changes
- Key recommendations

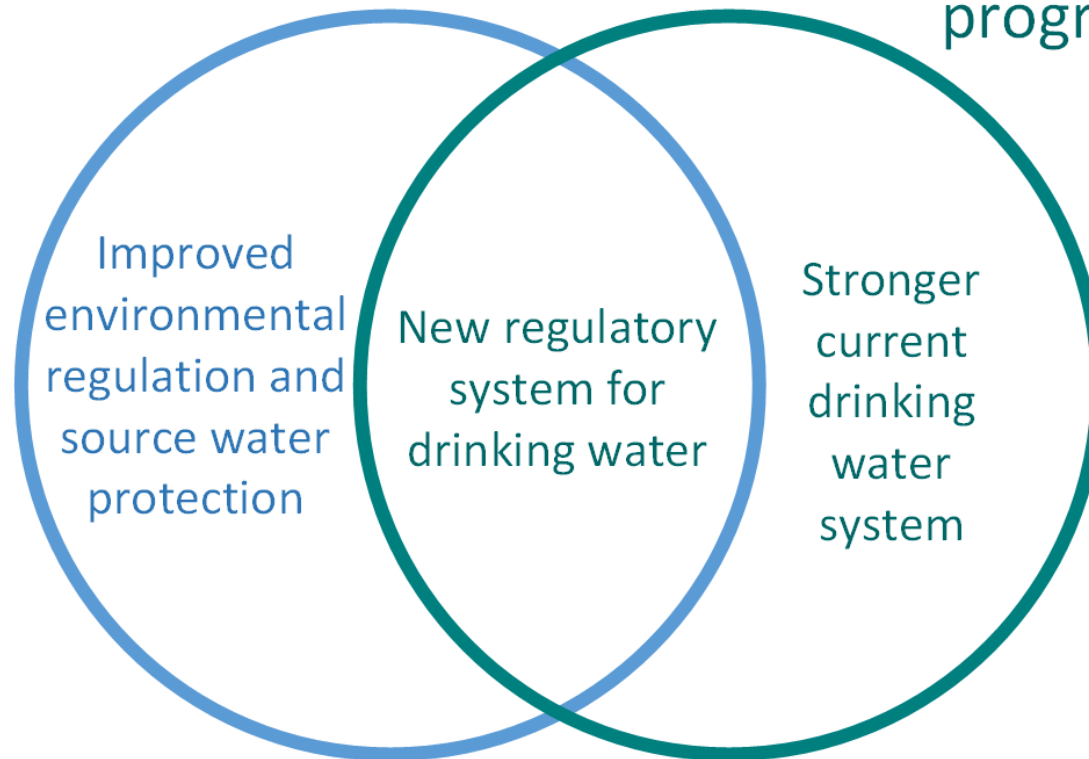
Short-term actions to strengthen the current drinking water regime

- Drinking Water Advisory Committee
- Director-General of Health's statement
- Review of Drinking-water Standards
- Improved guidance material
- Improved laboratory testing
- Improved training for statutory officers
- Health Act Amendment Bill

Improving drinking water safety in the long term

Three Waters Review
regulatory work stream

Ministry of Health
drinking water work
programme



New regulatory system for drinking water

- Purpose
- Duties and obligations on suppliers
- Guidance and support for compliance
- Enforcement approach and tools
- Monitoring and reporting
- Sector stewardship and leadership
- Resourcing and funding

Links to other regulatory systems – existing and new

Where do we want to be?

- Demonstrably safe drinking water
- Effective regulation across three waters system