

Unclassified

Taumata Arowai and the journey so far

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HEAD OF REGULATORY



Comprehensive three waters reform

The three pou (pillars) of the water reforms:

1. Pou tuatahi: ***Taumata Arowai***. A dedicated water services regulator to administer the new regulatory regime (1 March).
2. Pou tuarua: ***Regulatory reform***. The Water Services Bill
3. Pou tuatoru: ***Service delivery reform***. Equitable access to more affordable and reliable water services.

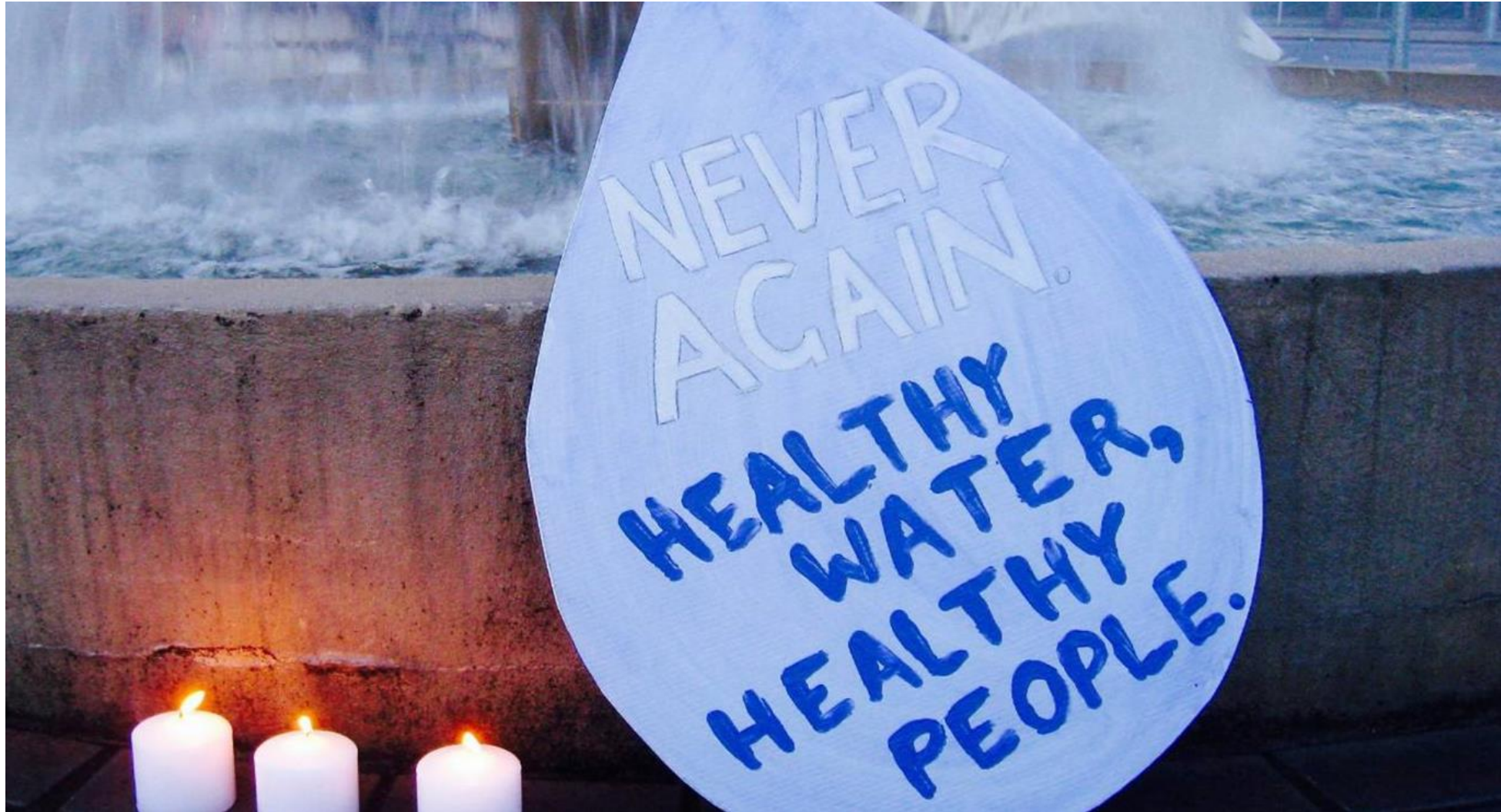


Reminder: The 'Why'

- Not all water that comes out of the tap is safe to drink
- Havelock North was a killer because the water was not safe to drink. No part of the system to deliver safe water worked well.
- There is a lack of confidence in the performance of our wastewater and stormwater networks
- As the new water services regulator for Aotearoa, Taumata Arowai will be critical to lifting performance of the system

A large, light blue water drop graphic containing text. The drop is positioned on the right side of the slide, partially overlapping a background image of ocean waves.

It is estimated that around 800,000 New Zealanders receive their drinking water from supplies that are not regulated.



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The role of Taumata Arowai

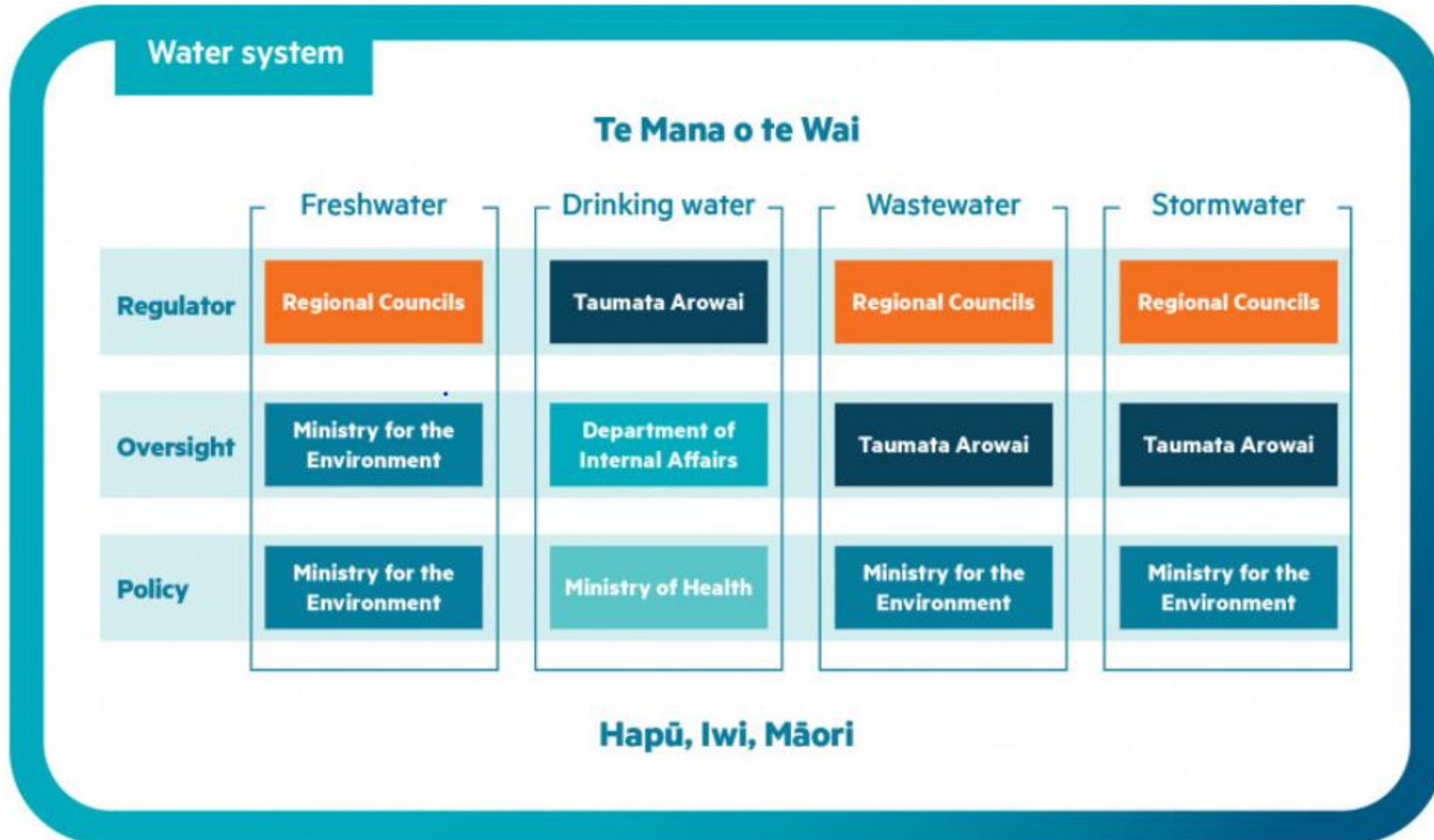
Taumata Arowai purpose...

We'll work collaboratively across Aotearoa, taking our lead from Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Mana o te Wai. Our aro:

- Providing leadership on the three waters: drinking water, wastewater and stormwater. Holding ourselves and water service suppliers to account.
- Setting, promoting, advising on, enforcing, and monitoring the national standards for drinking water.
- Promoting and advising on the national standards and shining a light on the performance of wastewater and stormwater.
- Building relationships, trust, and confidence within communities and those we work alongside.
- Administering and managing in partnership for current and future generations.
- Lifting sector capability, capacity, leadership and equitable opportunities for Aotearoa in reaching those standards.



A water system that meets the needs of Aotearoa



Taumata Arowai is not...

It's important to highlight what Taumata Arowai doesn't do.

This includes:

- taking the lead on public health sector incidents or responses
- the supplier of safe drinking water, wastewater or stormwater networks or services
- the Three Waters Programme lead or policy agency
- an entity that regulates access to water including irrigation or land use change projects
- an entity that regulates the water bottling industry
- a funder of infrastructure or utilities
- an economic regulator or policy shop
- amalgamating assets or reform local government or the water services sector.



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Water Services Bill

If passed, the Bill will:-

- Significantly strengthen the drinking water regulatory framework.
- Provide oversight and national-level reporting functions for wastewater and stormwater – “shining a light” on the system. Regional councils will continue to be the regulator here.
- Incorporate requirements to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai.
- Already established under separate legislation, Taumata Arowai will administer the regulatory framework set out in the Bill from approximately the second half of 2021.
- NB: As with all Bills, content is **SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



Bill progression and challenges

- Currently at Parliament's Health Select Committee
- Delays through Covid-19 and 2020 General Election
- Almost 1000 submissions received, and 200 presentations made
- There are over 500 large suppliers
- Original modelling had 5,000 small suppliers – now believe this is likely to be around 75,000
- Bill can be read as it entered Select Committee at https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_99655/water-services-bill



Key features of the Bill

All those who supply water, or manage wastewater or stormwater, must have a duty of care towards those to whom they provide the service.

- The legislation is designed to be implemented according to scale, complexity and risk – not a “one size fits all” approach.
- There is also a strong focus on capability – new authorisation and occupational regulation requirements will be established through secondary legislation.
- Local authorities are required to meet authorisation requirements **within five years**.
- **NB** Bill does not include Three Waters Service Delivery reform

Duties of drinking water suppliers

- The regime applies to all suppliers except domestic self-suppliers (single households with an individual water supply).
- Suppliers must register with Taumata Arowai and ensure key details are updated annually.
- Suppliers have a 'duty of care' and must ensure that drinking water is both safe, and complies with drinking water standards – with clear obligations to take remedial action, warn consumers and notify Taumata Arowai if drinking water is not safe or breaches standards.
- Suppliers must prepare and implement a drinking water safety plan and continuously review it. Taumata Arowai has a responsibility to review plans according to their scale, complexity and risk profile – they will not be “approved” as under the current framework.



Implications for local authorities

Local authorities will continue to face significant duties and obligations when the Water Services Bill is enacted.

Local authorities as drinking water suppliers

- Duty to provide safe drinking water, meet drinking water standards and clear obligations to act when water is not safe or fails to meet standards.

General obligations of territorial authorities

- Required to make assessments of drinking water, wastewater and sanitary services to ensure communities have access to safe drinking water.



Wastewater and stormwater

The Bill contains new national-level reporting, monitoring and advisory functions for wastewater and stormwater, empowering Taumata Arowai to “shine a light” by:

Compile wastewater and stormwater networks into a **national register**

Set environmental performance measures that wastewater and stormwater operators and regulators will have to report against annually

Publish an annual report on the environmental and network performance and compliance of wastewater and stormwater systems

Identify and promote **national good practice** for the design, management and regulation of wastewater and stormwater networks

Regional councils will continue to be the regulator for wastewater and stormwater systems

New source water planning/risk management

- “Source water” is the freshwater body that is used as a drinking water supply
- Suppliers will need to have a source water risk management plan, based on the scale, risk and complexity of a supply
- Local authorities will have to inform suppliers about risks and hazards to drinking water supplies, and undertake actions to address those risks
- Regional councils will have to report on source water quality annually and assess the effectiveness of ways to manage risks or hazards to source water every three years
- Ministry for the Environment is leading the source water National Freshwater Standards from 2022.



Acceptable Solutions

- The Bill provides Taumata Arowai with the authority to prepare standards and rules which water suppliers must comply with
- Local Authority Chief Executives, among other specialist groups, were sent exposure drafts in December 2020 of proposed standards and operational compliance rules and an “acceptable solution” for rural agricultural water supplies
- They were provided so water suppliers can understand the proposed changes and prepare their own operations accordingly. Find it at:
[https://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Taumata-Arowai-Exposure-Drafts/\\$file/Acceptable-Solution-for-Rural-Agricultural-Water-Supply-Exposure-Draft.pdf](https://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Taumata-Arowai-Exposure-Drafts/$file/Acceptable-Solution-for-Rural-Agricultural-Water-Supply-Exposure-Draft.pdf)
- Public consultation on drafts of the standards, operational compliance rules and acceptable solutions is proposed for mid-2021

Acceptable Solutions

for rural/agricultural water suppliers

- Acceptable solutions provide a prescribed approach to demonstrating compliance with many of the water supplier duties in the Bill and can be adopted as an alternative to complying with the operational compliance rules
- Three Acceptable Solutions have been prepared with input from all four Reference Groups
- Roof water supplies <500. Provides for cartridge filter and UV systems at buildings
- Springs and bores <500. Provides for cartridge filter and UV systems at the headworks
- Rural Agricultural Supplies (no population limit) Provides for cartridge filter and UV systems at each household connected to the supply



Summary of key events

Business as usual for now

Taumata Arowai and the Ministry of Health will work together to ensure a smooth handover of regulatory administration. **Until then, all Ministry of Health requirements still apply.**

Water Services Legislation

Taumata Arowai is now **an independent Crown Entity**

The Health Select Committee process is well under way

Taumata Arowai will be **empowered by the enactment of the Water Services Bill, expected mid-2021**



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Proposed regional regulated structure + website

Regional regulator structure (proposed)

- Head office remains in Wellington.
- There will be four regional offices:

Two North Island locations

Provisionally:

- - Hamilton
- - Palmerston North.

Two South Island locations

Provisionally:

- Christchurch
- Dunedin.

- All Taumata Arowai roles will be publicly advertised through our website taumataarowai.govt.nz.



Taumata Arowai website

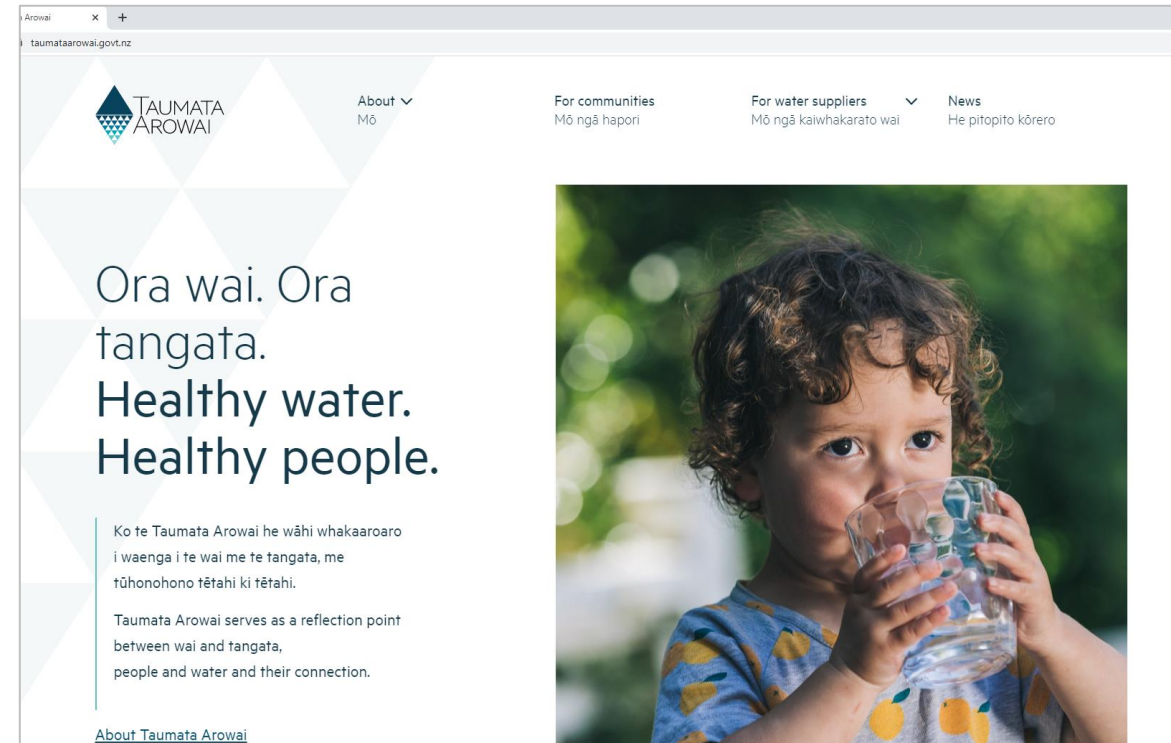
In March 2021 we went live with Phase One of our website www.taumataarowai.govt.nz

Phase One now live

- Overview of who Taumata Arowai is and why we've been established.
- The key message is that MoH is the current drinking water regulator.
- Timeline and legislation.

Phase Two - update once Bill is passed

- Guidance and support material developed to be housed on our website.
- Developing a seamless journey from website to self-service back-end portal.



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QUESTIONS?