

Questions and Answers from the Taumata Arowai Weekly Webinar Series  
hosted by Water NZ on 28 October 2021

Timeframes - What happens if a DWA at the DHB is currently reviewing a supplier's Water Safety Plan? Will they still provide their feedback as expected even if after the 15 Nov? Or will it transfer to Taumata Arowai? <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>
Is there some Central Government funding available for Unregistered Suppliers to work through their registration? <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>
How did Taumata Arowai estimate that there is approx. 75,000 unregistered water supplies?
The public groundwater fed taps in Petone, that now have UV treatment. Where would that sit in the new system? These are local unchlorinated supplies that people really do like to have access to. <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>
Morena, if you are working alongside labs - will the onus be on the labs or the water. <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>
or the water supplier (small, in our case) to provide the reporting? <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>
what happens with complex source for a small supply? Which modules? <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>
Could you please comment on why the Source Water rules are determined by the size of the population served and not on factors related to the type of source? <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>
The slides are available after this event - will that include the commentary ? <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>
For situations where a rural / lifestyle block has a 'trickle feed' by local council as a 'supplement feed' to roof capture how does that work? as technically doesn't the requirement to supply safe drinking water then fall on the council? <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>
What water supplies are exempt, if any? For example, is a DOC hut a water supplier (<50)? <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>
Probably a silly question but would be keen on an indication for how much I need to increase my OPEX budgets in lieu of the increased monitoring and reporting requirements <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>
where on the website are the draft monitoring rules pls? <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>
On-demand small supplies vs Trickle feed supplies Both have to meet G + S2 + T2 + D2 Would on-demand be expected to have a central treatment plant and trickle feed could have a Point of Entry Solution? I understand that On-demand distribution have to meet the D2 requirements. But for the Trickle feed, when the water is provided to a nominated storage tank, there isn't really a distribution from the tank to POE to consumption. For example, a rural school on a trickle supply. <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>
Pretty sure I can guess the answer but is the 50 person limit an average or an absolute? Our population swells in summer, so I have small schemes that have 10 people in winter and well over 50 in summer. They would fall into the 50-500 group wouldn't they? <b>Verbal Answer during presentation</b>

Just confirming, the reporting of breaches and monitoring will not be required by the unregistered supplies until they are registered, correct? **Verbal Answer during presentation**

Our pa trustees are volunteers, how are we going to be resourced to understand and comply with these drinking water rules? **Taumata Arowai will provide guidance and information to help support water suppliers to understand their responsibilities and obligations. DIA is investigating the possibility of providing funding support to small water suppliers.**

Thanks for this. Is there any outside verification that a certain supplier fits in X or Y group like large or small supplier? And how often would that checking happen? **It is the water supplier's responsibility to understand which category of supplier they are. We have provided guidance on this in the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules (DWQAR).**

I understand these new reporting parameters and rules for E. coli testing are informed by current technology that takes >24h and is expensive to do more frequently for smaller suppliers. How will these rules be affected given that in the future will exist a much faster and way more cost efficient E. coli testing system? **Taumata Arowai is aware of technological development associated with monitoring systems and will adjust the DWQAR to account for this.**

The roof water supply requirements appear to apply to all roof water supplies, will this include private supplies for single properties and if so, will this apply to existing houses or only new builds. **Single self-supplied domestic households are not drinking water supplies under the Water Services Act 2021 and will not be regulated by Taumata Arowai, other than in certain emergency situations.**

How will you track down and communicate/consult with all the non registered water suppliers? **Taumata Arowai has 4 years to engage with unregistered water suppliers and will look to engage with representative organisations like Federated Farmers, MPI, Irrigation NZ. Our initial focus will be on water suppliers currently registered with the Ministry of Health, whose supplies will be deemed registered under the Water Services Act 2021 from its commencement date.**

What is the new platform replacing DWO and what training will be provided ??? **As a new regulator, we will not be replacing DWO. However, we are building a new self-service portal, Hinekōrako, for water suppliers (and laboratories) to register their supplies and provide us with information, reporting and notifications.**

Will a source type have any indication on the complexity class/testing requirements? **Source water monitoring requirements are set out in the DWQAR and will be discussed in future webinars.**

Don Arnold, IANZ. Do self suppliers fit in to this picture? **Single self-supplied domestic households are not drinking water supplies under the Water Services Act 2021 and will not be regulated by Taumata Arowai, other than in certain emergency situations.**

What are the consequences for non-compliances with monitoring or even not doing any monitoring. There will be a lot of small suppliers currently in this situation. **All water suppliers have a responsibility to provide safe drinking water as set out in the Water Services Act 2021; regular monitoring is a way of demonstrating that is occurring. Monitoring requirements will be typical features of drinking water safety plans, DWQAR, and acceptable solutions. Failure to carry out required monitoring may have enforcement consequences. Taumata Arowai will have a number of regulatory tools and will look at the most effective option to ensure suppliers are meeting legislative requirements and supplying safe drinking water.**

When does Taumata Arowai recommend suppliers implementing the draft rules, given the upcoming public consultation? **Suppliers should start to become familiar with the direction of the draft rules now. Consultation will start in the first quarter of 2022 and it's anticipated the new DWQAR will come into effect 1 July 2022. Until then, the existing Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand will apply.**

Hi Gillian can you download that websit link to the \$30 million support for rural suppliers please. **Contact [ThreeWaters@dia.govt.nz](mailto:ThreeWaters@dia.govt.nz)**

Will Taumata Arowai take over resource consents for water takes and be responsible for the conditions of those consents. i.e. water restrictions. If so when? **No. As a drinking water quality regulator, Taumata Arowai will not be responsible for resource consents. Local authorities will continue to be the consenting, compliance and enforcement authorities under the Resource Management Act 1991.**

Fully acknowledge about Water Safety Plans being water utility plan to safely operate, manage and deliver drinking water. we are fortunate to have a number of plans recently reviewed and adopted by MoH, of which MoH gave a 5 year life. Can we assume that these WSP are reasonably OK for their timeline. **All registered water suppliers are required to submit an updated Water Safety Plan (WSP) within one year of 15 November 2021. You will need to review your WSP taking into account the new DWQAR and our guidance material, which we will release shortly.**

Currently DWSNZ requires suppliers to report exceeded MAVs but the Act clearly states this is the laboratory. Can you clarify reporting of exceeded MAVs? In all cases an Act over-rides a Standard. **Water suppliers are required to notify Taumata Arowai about a range of matters under the Water Services Act 2021, including when MAVs are exceeded.** Accredited laboratories must also notify Taumata Arowai if testing indicates a MAV exceedance. Neither duty detracts from the other.

If a water supplier knows that their community gathers water from a natural spring or a supply from say a Brewery, who will be responsible for testing that supply? **The water supplier is responsible for ensuring the water they supply is safe to drink. If the brewery is supplying the water, then they are responsible for testing that supply.**

For cyanobacteria, are there sufficient labs to testing? **Yes, a number of labs are available to do cyanobacteria testing.**

How do we apply to \$30 million to assist us develop these management plans? **Contact [ThreeWaters@dia.govt.nz](mailto:ThreeWaters@dia.govt.nz)**

Hi, what is the timeline for rules/acceptable solutions for industrial supplies e.g. Food and Bev? **Taumata Arowai is the regulator for drinking water supplies. MPI is responsible for regulating processed water for food product manufacturing. Water is not 'drinking water' under the Water Services Act 2021 if its use is regulated under the Food Act 2014, the Animal Products Act 1999, or the Wine Act 2003.**

Can you please confirm that water supply at marae would fall under acceptable solution criteria? **Acceptable solutions may be an option for marae. It will depend on the source water and the supply arrangements. Acceptable solutions will be discussed at the webinar on 24 November.**

Will TA be providing rules for types of Backflow Preventer required for type of risk, ie for properties with alternate supplies and will all connections require some form of backflow prevention? **The DWQAR provide distribution system rules which outline the responsibilities for suppliers regarding backflow prevention. Water suppliers must determine levels of risk and the appropriate devices that need to be installed. Further guidance on Boundary Backflow Prevention for Drinking Water Supplies is available from Water NZ. The DWQAR's Distribution Rules will be discussed in more detail at the webinar on 17 November.**

Is the Drinking-water Register for New Zealand on the ESR website the best place to see the most up to date information on supplies and suppliers? If a supplier notices errors in this register for their supplies is it best to wait for Taumata Arowai to get in touch in the coming months? **If you are a registered supply, your details will automatically be transferred to Taumata Arowai. We will be in contact with you when it's time for you to review and check your details.**

We get contacted by unregistered very small and small supplies who really want to comply with the Act but want to do everything they can not to have chlorination. Will this be the exemption process you refer to? And are they likely to get this exemption even though the rules require disinfection residual. They all have small network (roughly 50 houses maximum). **If they are reticulated supplies, then they require residual disinfection. They can apply for an exemption from residual disinfection after 1 March 2022. The process to apply for an exemption will be available**

at [taumataarowai.govt.nz](http://taumataarowai.govt.nz). Small supply rules and Acceptable solutions will be discussed at the webinar on 24 November.

Will there be changes and updates to MOH's Handbook for Preparing a Water Safety Plan? If so, when do you envisage that will be made available? [We will not be adopting the MoH Water Safety Plan handbook. We will provide guidance on the water safety planning process shortly.](#)

are you any closer to review of the rules/equivalent population/acceptable solutions with respect to private water supplies for industrial users e.g. food and beverage. Or what is the timeline for this? [Taumata Arowai is the regulator for drinking water supplies. MPI is responsible for regulating processed water for food product manufacturing. Water is not 'drinking water' under the Water Services Act 2021 if its use is regulated under the Food Act 2014, the Animal Products Act 1999, or the Wine Act 2003.](#)

Are you able to run through the changes to Drinking Water online, is there any plans for a national water database [As a new regulator, we will not be replacing DWO. However, we are building a new self-service portal, Hinekōrako, for water suppliers \(and laboratories\) to register their supplies and provide us with information, reporting and notifications.](#) A version of the resulting register of drinking water supplies will be publicly available through Hinekōrako.

Can you clarify the requirement for chlorine contact time when chlorine is injected for network residual ONLY not disinfection i.e. after a UV treatment plant? [More details on this will be provided at the webinar on 3 November.](#)

Are single dwellings with own supply occupied by owner's employees regulated? [Single self-supplied dwellings are not drinking water supplies under the Water Services Act 2021 and will not be regulated by Taumata Arowai, other than in certain emergency situations.](#)

Since these standards and Rules are in draft and still have to be consulted on next year, when will they become operational? [It is anticipated they will come into effect on 1 July 2022.](#)