

Drinking Water Network Environmental Performance Measures

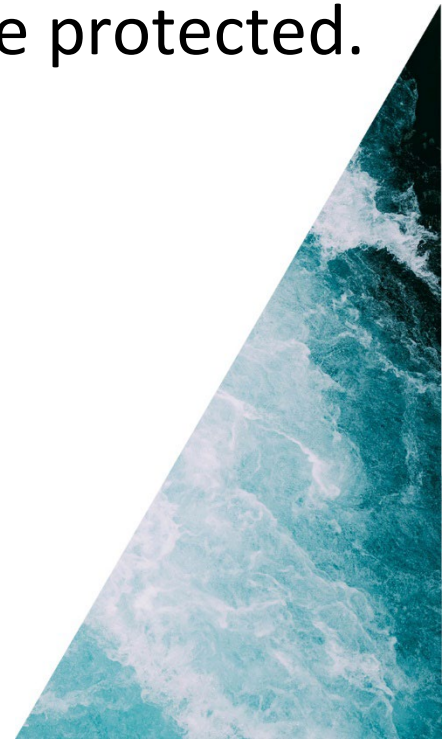
27 April 2022



Ko wai, ko au, ko tātou

Ko te wai ahau, ko ahau te wai.
He whakaaturanga tātau nō te wai.
Ko te ora te wai ko te ora o te
tangata.
He taonga te wai me tiaki.
Ko wai tātou.
Ko wai tātou.

I am wai, wai is me.
We are reflections of our wai.
The health of te wai is the health of te
tangata.
Wai is a taonga that must be protected.
Ko wai tātou.
We are wai. Wai is us.



What we will cover today

Overview

- Bill Bayfield, Chief Executive – why the new requirements are being introduced, who will they apply to and timeframes, Te Mana o te Wai

Drinking Water Network Environmental Performance

- Simone Blackburn, Senior Policy Advisor – drinking water network environmental performance measures, public consultation and key themes

Drinking Water Regulation Report

- Michael Howden, Data & Insights Manager – new reporting requirements

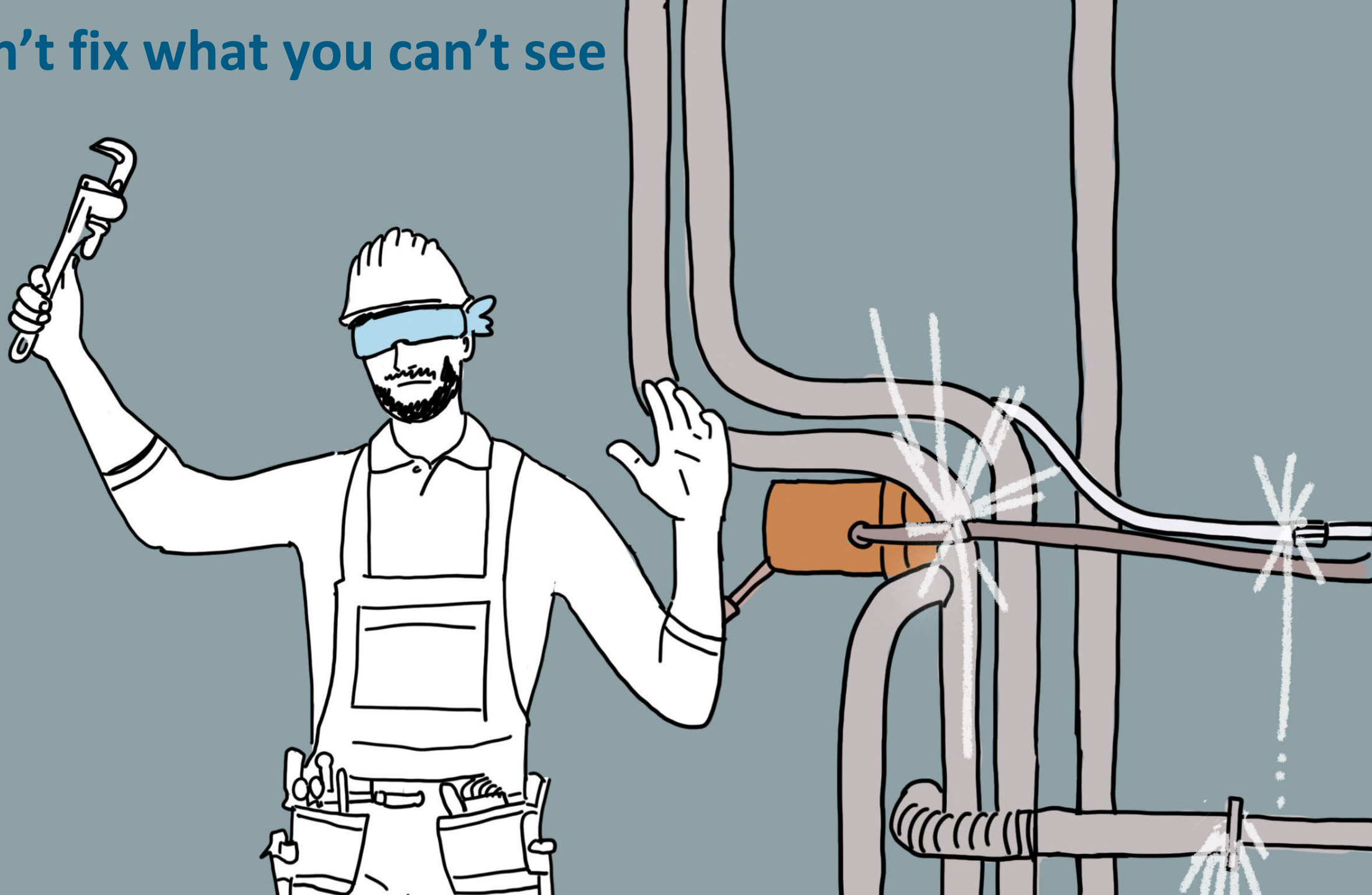
Pātai / questions

- Opportunity to answer any further pātai / questions you might have

Unclassified

Overview

You can't fix what you can't see

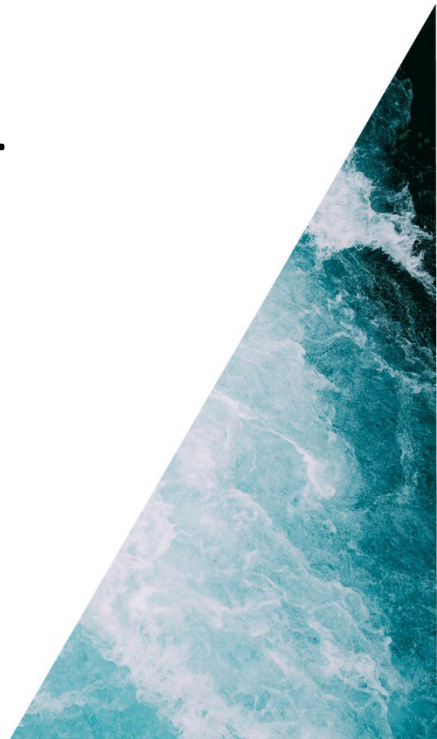


Who will they apply to and what timeframe?

- The new drinking water network environmental performance measures only apply to networks and network operators. The measures therefore only apply to drinking water supplies that are run by or on behalf of councils, council-controlled organisations or government departments.
- The measures will be **phased over three years**, with data collection for the first group of measures starting from **1 July 2022**.
- Further measures will be introduced from **1 July 2023** and from **1 July 2024**.
- **Wastewater and stormwater measures** are also required under the Water Services Act 2021 **from 2023**, however, those provisions particularly stormwater are being reconsidered and may be delayed.

Why introduce these requirements?

- Requirements are designed to provide greater transparency on:
 - the performance of networks
 - the impacts they have on public health and the environment
 - and to contribute to the continuous improvement of the quality of water services.
- We know councils are asked for similar information from other agencies. We are working with those agencies to manage any overlaps and to make reporting easy.
- We are working in close conjunction with the Three Waters National Transition Unit, MBIE and Commerce Commission to integrate with the future Economic Regulator.



Taumata Arowai takes a lead from Te Mana o te Wai



These principles are about restoring and preserving the health, wellbeing, and balance between water, people, and environment.

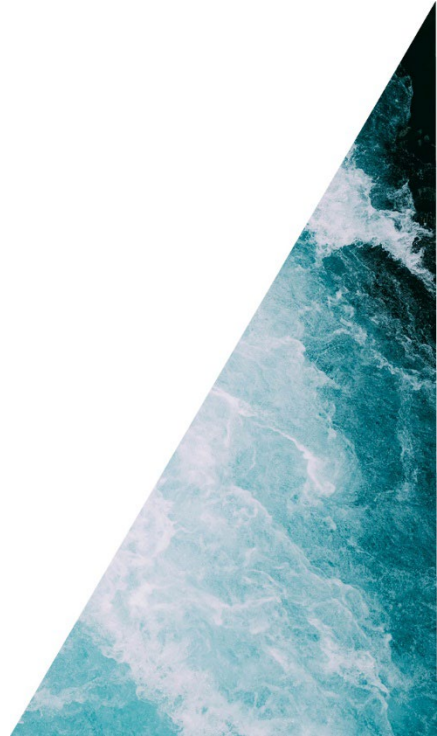
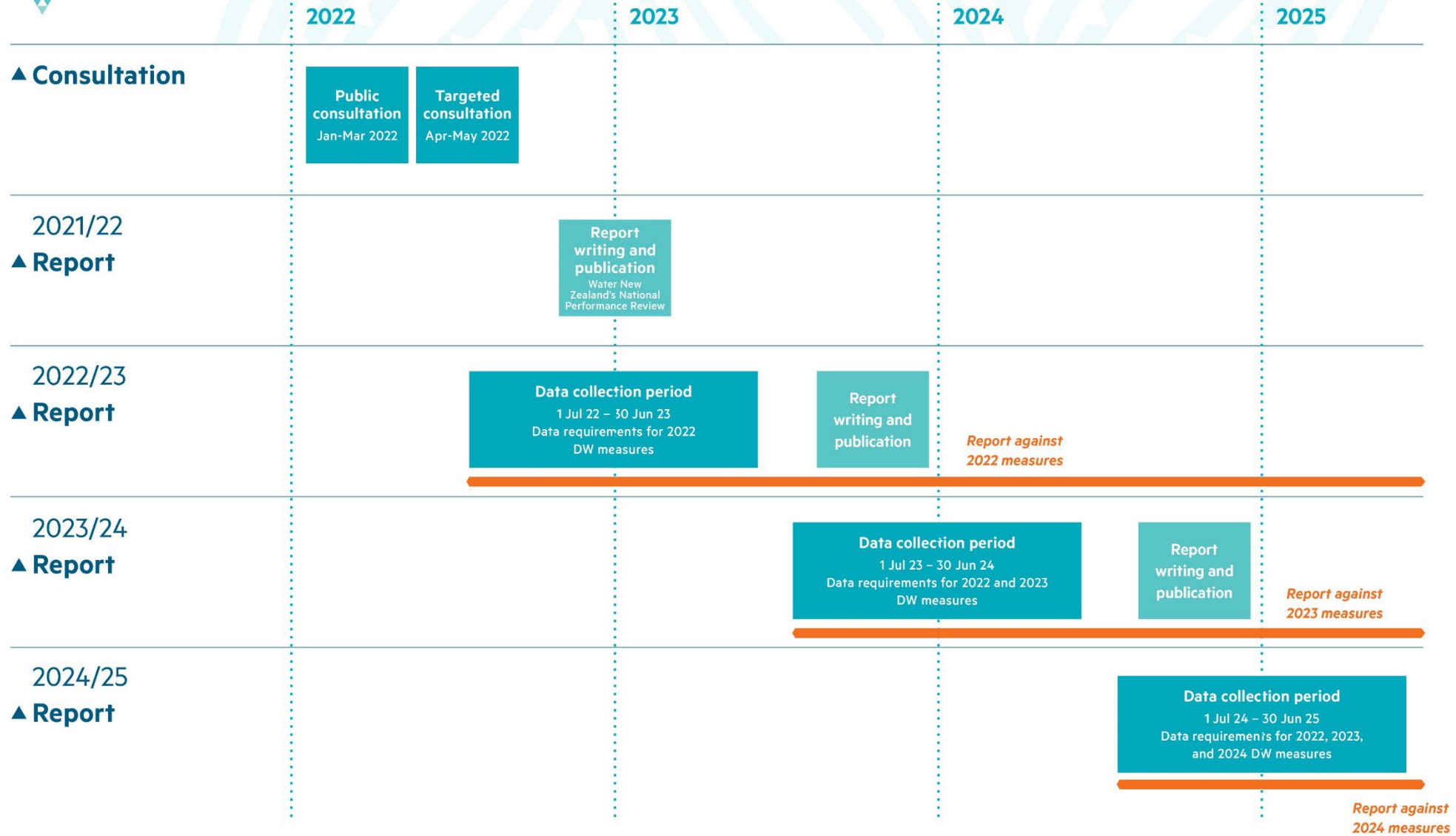
We are embracing this water-centric approach and aspire to being a leader in giving effect to Te Mana o te Wai throughout the design of Taumata Arowai.

Drinking Water Network Environmental Performance Measures

Who will the new requirements apply to?

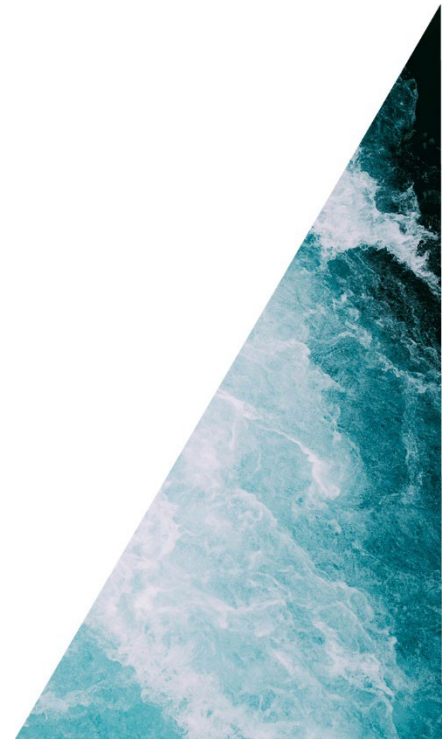
- The new requirements only apply to networks and network operators. A network operator (including a 'drinking water network operator') is defined in the Act as:
 - local authorities, council-controlled organisations, or subsidiaries of council-controlled organisations
 - government departments (for example, the Department of Conservation or the Ministry of Education)
 - the New Zealand Defence Force.
- We are focusing on drinking water networks first, with wastewater and stormwater measures introduced at a later stage.
- We will be engaging separately with government departments to ensure the measures we develop reflect the unique characteristics of those networks.





Drinking water environmental performance measures

- **Is the environment and public health protected?**
 - Example measure: resource consent compliance
 - From July 2022 we want to know what resource consents you hold
 - From July 2023 we want to know more about compliance
- **Are services economically sustainable?**
 - Example measure: water supply capital investment projects
- **Are services reliable?**
 - Example measure: asset condition
 - From July 2022 we want you to report this in whatever form you currently measure asset condition
 - Later on, we want to introduce more consistency (e.g., through grading)



Drinking water environmental performance measures

- **Are resources used efficiently?**
 - Example measure: network water losses
- **Are services resilient?**
 - From July 2022 we want to know whether networks have sufficient fire-fighting capacity;
 - From July 2023 we want to know about the ability of networks to return to service post natural disaster; and
 - From July 2024 we want to know more about how climate change risk is being managed.



Public consultation

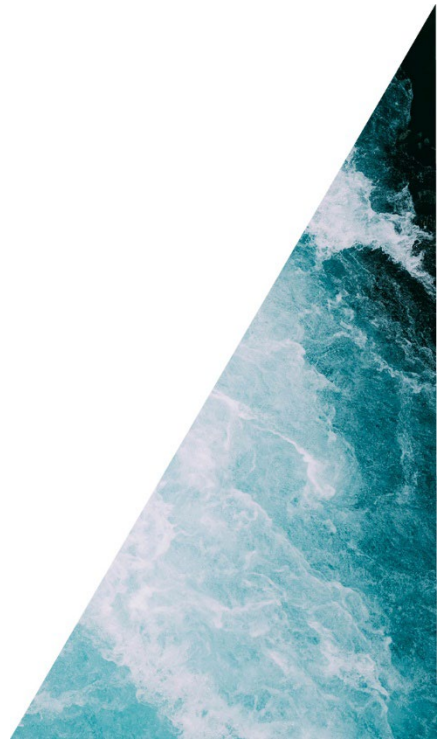
- From 17 January to 28 March 2022, we sought feedback on a number of documents to flesh out aspects of the regulatory framework enabled by the Water Services Act 2021.
- As part of consultation, we released a discussion document outlining our proposed approach to monitoring drinking water network environmental performance (te-puna-korero.taumataarowai.govt.nz/regulatory/drinking-water-network-environment-performance).
- Submissions on this document have closed. We are now analysing submissions and will be working with network operators to refine the measures and develop guidance material. Let us know if you would like to be a part of this.

Key themes

- In general submitters were supportive of the proposed requirements and the proposed scope.
- Submitters expressed concerns about the timeframe and wanted to ensure the introduction of the measures was phased appropriately. Submitters highlighted the fact that there is a lot going on at the moment which is reducing the available capacity of councils.
- Submitters wanted to be sure the overlaps were managed, particularly overlaps with the role of the economic regulator and regional councils.
- A number of useful technical changes were suggested on the individual measures.

Next steps

- We're using targeted engagement to finetune the measures and to test technical details around data collection methods and standards.
- We're looking to develop a technical reference group to work with during the initial refinement process. If you are interested in being part of this group, please indicate so in your submission or email korero@taumataarowai.govt.nz.
- We're currently working on incorporating mātauranga Māori and Te Ao Māori perspectives into the proposed measures.



Drinking Water Regulation Report

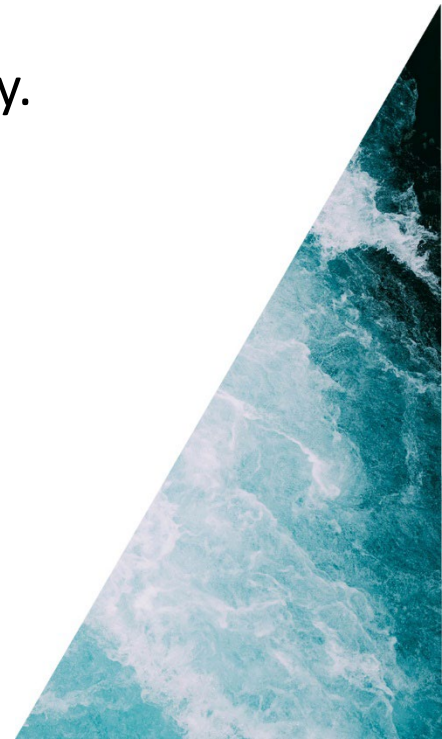
A different approach

- The Ministry of Health's Annual Report on Drinking Water Quality is not being continued.
- We're developing a Drinking Water Regulation Report, which will report on compliance, as well as drinking water safety, management of source water, water services capability, our performance, and the effectiveness of the Water Services Act.
- The Drinking Water Regulation Report will report on the calendar year, the first report covering the transition to Taumata Arowai in 2021.
- Over the next 4 years, the report will evolve to focus on providing evidence to lift the performance of the water sector.
- We plan to continue a concise annual survey, supported by data from notifications, interviews, regular monitoring reporting + investigations.
- We're working to avoid overlaps with the information we are asking for network performance measures and what other Government agencies are asking for.



What's ahead?

- **Mid-May 2022:** We will seek feedback on monitoring reporting data guidelines which support the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules.
- **July 2022:** 2021 Drinking Water Regulation Report published.
- **July 2022:** Regular monitoring reporting by water suppliers planned to start.
- **September 2022:** We will seek feedback on (~20) questions for the annual survey.
- **January – February 2023:** Suppliers to complete the annual survey to provide information for the 2022 Drinking Water Regulation Report.
- **June 2023:** 2022 Drinking Water Regulation Report published.



Pātai | Questions?