

Taumata Arowai update

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20 February 2024



Te Whakatauāki a Taumata Arowai

Ko te wai ahau, ko ahau te wai.
He whakaaturanga tātou 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 water, water is me.
We are reflections of our water.
The health of the water is the health of
the people.
Water is a treasure that must be
protected.
We are water.
Water is us.



What we will cover today

- **Steve Taylor**
 - Our regulatory focus
 - Response planning
- **Sara McFall**
 - Wastewater and stormwater
 - Shining a light on performance
 - Regulatory strategy
- **Pātai / questions**
 - Opportunity to answer any further pātai / questions you might have



Unclassified

Our focus

Reviewing Drinking Water Safety Plans

- Drinking Water Safety Plans are an important part of good risk management practice and planning is a continuous process.
- We're continuing to review plans to seek assurances that drinking water supplies are being managed safely.
- We're prioritising larger supplies and where we see safety concerns.
- The information gathered helps us:
 - identify risks and non-compliance with the Water Services Act (the Act)
 - take compliance action when necessary
 - understand the sector
 - inform future priorities and improvements.

Key issues and areas we are looking at

- **Drinking water safety plan development, implementation and verification** – does the supplier have an up-to-date plan and is it implemented?
- **Compliance approach** – does the plan outline how the supply complies with the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules and is the plan appropriate?
- **Bacterial and protozoa risk and treatment** – do they have barriers and are they effective? Is there a plan in place to promptly address the risks?
- **Response plans** – does the supplier have appropriate response plans for a range of water quality events and natural disasters?

Taking a multi-barrier approach

- A review of the Queenstown District Lakes Council drinking water safety plan highlighted the lack of appropriate treatment.
- The review combined with the cryptosporidiosis outbreak led to us taking compliance action.
- It also led to us looking at other supplies in New Zealand that have similar source water characteristics to the Queenstown supply.
- Last year we wrote to council and government suppliers making our expectations clear:
 - ▶ they must take a multi-barrier approach to ensure communities have access to safe and sufficient drinking water.



Our expectations

For council and government supplies without appropriate treatment in place, we communicated the following expectations and timeframes.

Due date	Expectation	Supply type
30 June 2024	Supplier to confirm plan and funding	All
31 December 2024	Supplier to complete installation and operation of protozoa barrier	For surface water
	Supplier to complete installation and operation of bacterial barrier and or/residual disinfection	All
31 December 2025	Supplier to complete installation and operation of protozoa barrier	For bore water sources

These timeframes acknowledge the planning and funding cycle that local government operates within, and that 2024/25 will be a Long Term Plan (LTP) year for many councils.

Keep talking with us

- We recognised every drinking water supply is unique and are keen to understand your challenges.
- If you are finding it challenging to meet some requirements of the Act, then there are some options to help you meet your obligations, such as:
 - **Enforceable undertakings** – allows suppliers to acknowledge areas of actual or possible non-compliance and put a plan in place to assure compliance in the future. Find out more:
taumataarowai.govt.nz/enforceable-undertakings



If you have particular challenges with your supply, get in touch with our local team. We can help you explore a range of options available.

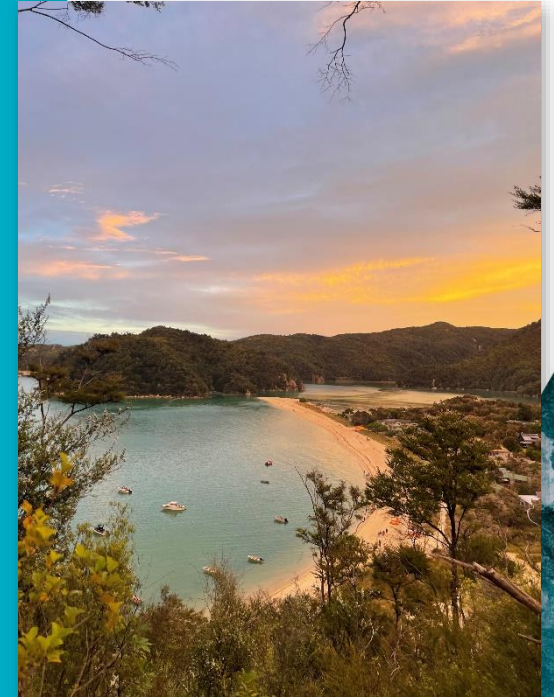
Two exemptions granted

Selwyn District Council, Rakaia Huts

- Residual disinfection exemption granted
- Took on board our feedback from their first application and made changes for a successful second application
- Council has clear understanding to decide on options

Torrent Bay Township

- General exemption granted
- Remote community, accessible by boat or a three-hour bush walk
- Operation of treatment plant unreasonable and impractical
- Community provided solution to ensure consumption of safe drinking water



Remote township at Torrent Bay

Final decision papers are published here: taumataarowai.govt.nz/exemptions

The simpler the supply, the simpler the rules

- We have options to match the scale, complexity and risk profile of a range of supplies.
- **Acceptable Solutions** are a ready-made option for smaller, more remote suppliers to help them meet their obligations. They allow water to be treated at endpoint of supply (often at each house or building) without residual disinfection.
- The Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules include simpler rules for suppliers that serve smaller populations:
 - **Small Networked Supply Rules:** are for populations fewer than 100 people most of the year. Includes straightforward source treatment and distribution rules.
 - **Very Small Community Rules:** are for a population of up to 25 people most of the year. Only requires microbiological testing every six months.

Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules reporting

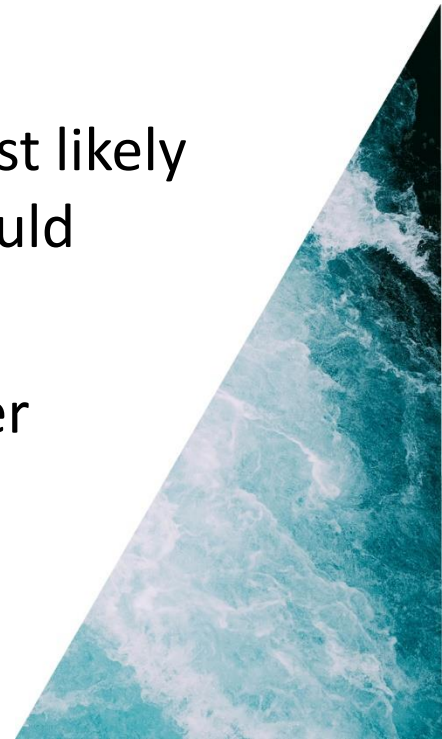
- For suppliers required to report on the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules (the Rules), annual reporting is due by **28 February 2024**.
- For more information:
 - Visit our website for [guidance](#)
 - Watch our [webinars](#)
 - We are working with Water New Zealand on other ways to support you.
- Please note, we have clarified some of the interpretations in the Rules on our website: taumataarowai.govt.nz/rule-clarifications.

Unclassified

Response planning

Our role: safe and sufficient water

- In September 2023 NIWA forecast a dry Summer and Autumn for parts of New Zealand, due to El Niño.
- Our focus is on safe **and** sufficient water.
- Since the forecast, we've been monitoring the situation and staying connected with organisations across the country.
- In early December 2023, we emailed drinking water suppliers in areas most likely to be impacted by dry weather so that they were aware of the risk and could prepare.
- We encourage suppliers to contact us early if the amount of drinking water available to the communities they serve comes under pressure.



Wellington

- In November 2023, Wellington Water Limited officially advised us there was a risk of a water shortage for people in Wellington, Hutt Valley and Porirua over Summer and Autumn.
- Since then, we've been actively monitoring the situation to make sure we're ready to act, if required, so communities continue to have enough water for essential drinking, personal hygiene and sanitary needs.
- If lack of water puts public health at serious risk, our legislation enables us to declare a drinking water emergency.
- If we declare a drinking water emergency, it makes a range of powers available to us to address the serious risk to public health.
 - This is a serious decision we don't take lightly.
 - We need to consult with the Minister, Health experts and mana whenua to do this.

Useful information

- **For drinking water suppliers:** Preparing for dry weather
 - taumataarowai.govt.nz/preparing-for-dry-weather
- **For the public:** Dry weather and drinking water, plus tips for conserving water everyday
 - taumataarowai.govt.nz/dry-weather
- **For the public and suppliers:** Declaring a Drinking Water Emergency
 - taumataarowai.govt.nz/declaring-a-drinking-water-emergency

Wastewater and stormwater

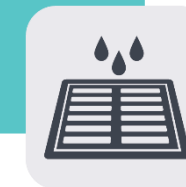
Our role and what's ahead?

Our role in relation to wastewater and stormwater began

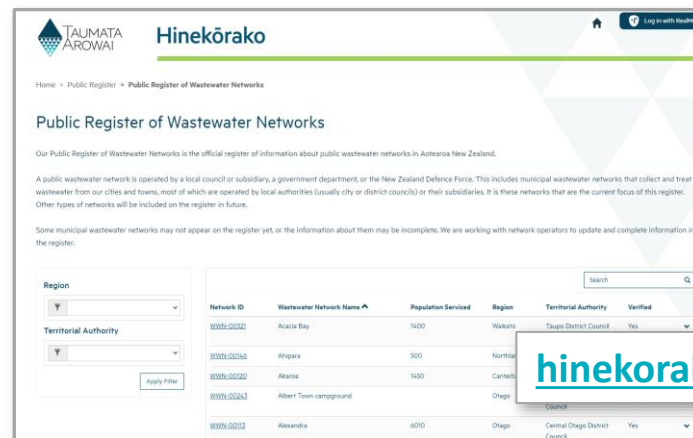
Release first annual Network Environmental Performance report



Publish a public register of stormwater networks



Published the Public Register of Wastewater Networks



Hinekōrako

Public Register of Wastewater Networks

Our Public Register of Wastewater Networks is the official register of information about public wastewater networks in Aotearoa New Zealand.

A public wastewater network is operated by a local council or subsidiary, a government department, or the New Zealand Defence Force. This includes municipal wastewater networks that collect and treat wastewater from our cities and towns, most of which are operated by local authorities (usually city or district councils) or their subsidiaries. It is these networks that are the current focus of this register. Other types of networks will be included on the register in future.

Some municipal wastewater networks may not appear on the register yet, or the information about them may be incomplete. We are working with network operators to update and complete information in the register.

Region	Network ID	Wastewater Network Name	Population Served	Region	Territorial Authority	Verified
	WWTN-00021	Acacia Bay	1400	Waikato	Tairāpiti District Council	Yes
	WWTN-00016	Ahipara	500	Northland		
	WWTN-00020	Akaroa	1450	Canterbury		
	WWTN-00023	Albert Town campground		Chagoe		
	WWTN-00013	Alexandra	6010	Chagoe	Central Otago District Council	Yes

hinekoroako.taumataarowai.govt.nz/publicregister/wastewater

Shining a light on performance

Reports on insights and performance

- We produce two key reports that help us share insights and shine a light on the performance of the water sector.

Network Environmental Performance Report

- This will be our first report, due to be released later this year.
- Talks about the state of infrastructure and the impact on the environment.

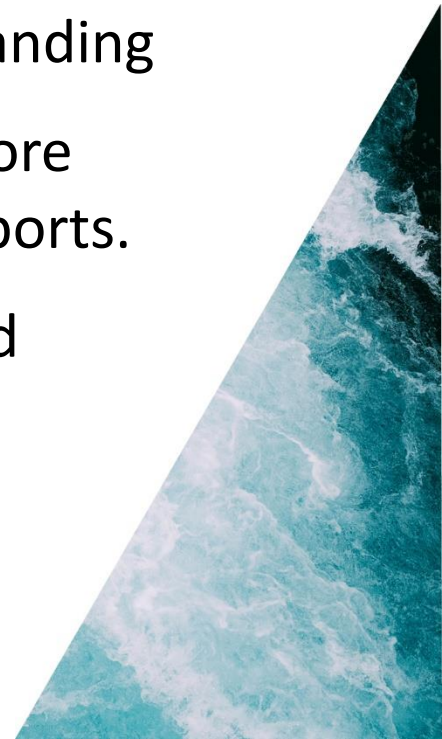
Drinking Water Regulation Report

- Our third report is due to be released in July this year.
- Talks about the health and safety of drinking water.
- These reports provide transparency to both the sector and the public. The information in the reports will evolve over time to help lift the performance of the sector.



Network Environmental Performance Report

- Thank you to Water New Zealand for producing the National Performance Review for the last 17 years. This was a voluntary programme for councils to participate in.
- Our report will be different from the NPR:
 - It will focus on environmental performance – this is our mandate
 - Shining a light on performance will help improve the public’s understanding
 - The first report will mainly be about drinking water networks, with more information about wastewater and stormwater networks in future reports.
- We asked operators to voluntarily provide information on wastewater and stormwater networks. 11 operators provided this information this year.



Insights

- We are thankful to operators for their feedback on our reporting templates and acknowledge we both have work to do in this space.
- We are starting to pull out some key themes – for instance; water losses across networks throughout New Zealand. Water infrastructure is aging, and we don't have a clear picture of the condition of a lot of systems due to low levels of monitoring and assessment.
- The quality and quantity of the data provided by network operators was quite variable. These issues included data omissions, data errors, procedural issues and misunderstanding of the requirements. For example:
 - Negative values for water pressure (-83 kPa) and infrastructure leakage index (-2.9)
 - Values for the length of pipe being 1,000 times bigger than expected (possibly reported in metres rather than km)
- We are working on significant improvements in how we collect data for the next report and make it easier to submit and provide better support for operators to supply data.

Regulatory Strategy

Regulatory Strategy – taking a holistic view

Regulatory Strategy

Our regulatory priorities across drinking water, wastewater and stormwater for the next three years informed by our current understanding of the sector.

Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement Strategy

Is a component of the Regulatory Strategy with our intended approach to achieving compliance for drinking water

We hold a range of information that we'll use to inform our strategy, taking a closer look at:

- Vulnerability and risks
- Challenges facing suppliers
- Analysing trends and what's ahead.

Why are we focusing on this?

- Being a small Crown entity, we must prioritise our regulatory activities to achieve the best outcomes for communities.

What does it mean for you?

- The strategy will give you clarity on what we're going to focus on over the next three years, including our expectations of suppliers and network operators.
- We intend to share the strategy with you mid-year.
- The Regulatory Strategy, once released, will replace our current Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Strategy.

Pātai | Questions?