

15 February 2018

Dear Water Supplier

### Publication of Water Safety Plans

As you will be aware, the Government Inquiry into the Havelock North Drinking Water contamination event reported its Stage two findings on 6 December 2017. The stage two report can be found here: [www.dia.govt.nz/Government-Inquiry-Into-Havelock-North-Drinking-Water](http://www.dia.govt.nz/Government-Inquiry-Into-Havelock-North-Drinking-Water)

Among the recommendations the Inquiry has also considered the accountability of stakeholders involved in the supply of safe drinking-water. The Inquiry states "*There is an inadequate appreciation of the risks to drinking water, and the economic and health consequences of these risks, by both local government suppliers, and the public to whom those suppliers are accountable*". As you know, water suppliers are subject to a suite of legal obligations under Part 2A of the Health Act including to prepare a water safety plan and to obtain approval of the plan from a drinking water assessor.

Water safety plan status is captured in the Director-General of Health's Annual Report on Drinking-water Quality. The Annual Report only shows whether a water safety plan has been drafted, submitted, redrafted, approved, implemented or not started. While this report is publicly available, the actual water safety plans are not.

One of the Ministry's initiatives relating to the Inquiry's findings is looking towards improving the transparency and accountability of water suppliers. To support this initiative, we encourage you to publish your approved water safety plan and the associated drinking water assessor's report on your website. As the plan is updated and amended, the new versions would also need to be placed on your website.

It is the Ministry's view that these documents can inform consumers about the safety of their local drinking-water and how the supply is managed. Please make these water safety plans publicly available, along with any other information about your water supply that may help your consumers understand the safety and quality of the water they drink.

I thank you for your support in protecting public health.

Yours sincerely



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