

Andrew Watson

I wish to nominate Andrew Watson for his outstanding contribution to the safety of drinking-water (DW) in New Zealand which has greatly benefited the health and well being of all New Zealanders.

- In 1992 protozoa (Giardia and Crypto) had become a significant problem which NZ water suppliers were ill equipped to deal with. With no relevant legislation the MOH developed a few pages specification for incorporating protozoa into the former DW grading system. From this Andrew developed a whole new grading system which was published in 1993 and was to have a dramatic effect on the quality of DW supplied in NZ which was remarkable given the lack of legislation. In 1993 surveys showed that just 50% of the population of the then known DW supplies complied with the bacterial DW standards but by 2007 when legislation was being enacted this had increased to nearly 90% for which the Andrew's grading was a driving public force.

Since then Andrew's leading contribution to major developments in DW which have changed the industry and the safety of DW have included:

- Significant role in the NZ Drinking-water Standards Committee for Standards produced in 1995, 2000 and 2005 (up-dated 2007 and 2018). More than 20 years guiding what were in 1995 and thereafter quite ground breaking standards
- Grading Review 2003 and up-dated grading
- 2009/10 modelling and costings for upgrading NZ DW supplies to meet DWSNZ. This work was a significant (and most open to challenge) part of the cost benefit analysis (CBA) the new Government ordered in 2009 as part of review of new DW legislation. This work was a major contribution to the fact that we do still have DW Legislation at all
- Code of Practice for fluoridating DW supplies together with costings for a CBA on fluoridating DW supplies leading to proposed legislation.
- Being invited to submit evidence to the Havelock North Stage 2 Inquiry hearings by the Committee.
- Drinking-Water Advisory Committee and working groups currently reviewing the legislation, standards and format for a new DW regulatory authority. The results of which will have a significant effect on the future of the DW industry and safety of DW.
- Writing or contributing to a number of important papers for the Water NZ conferences
- Recognising the need for new public health engineers and has actively been developing and mentoring young prospective public health engineers

Andrew has contributed to the DW field in NZ in a very pragmatic manner over many years. One of his strengths has been his ability to sift through the complexities to identify the key points and then to present a logical solution, whatever the topic and with benefit to us all.

I consider Andrew should be recognised for the outstanding contribution he has made to the safety of DW in NZ and the well being of all New Zealanders.

Nominated by: Paul Prendergast

Seconded by: David Ogilvie