



Helen Robertson | Policy Manager

Michael Howden | Data + Insights Manager

Bruce McLaren | Regulatory Operations Manager

4 July 2023

Te Whakataukāki 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

- **About the report and key themes**
 - Helen Robertson | Policy Manager
- **What the data shows**
 - Michael Howden | Data + Insights Manager
- **How we are responding**
 - Bruce McLaren | Regulatory Operations Manager
- **Pātai / questions**





About the report and key themes

About the report

- Presents information about the state of drinking water in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Second report, but first for full year as the water services regulator
- Covers the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022
- Data provided by registered drinking water suppliers owned and operated by local and central government
- We are still standing up regulatory systems and building a picture
- Future reports will have year on year comparisons and trends



Water suppliers represented in the report

- **Included:** local and central government
- **Not included:** Māori suppliers, facilities, water carriers, unregistered suppliers



Most people in Aotearoa, about 82% of the population, get their drinking water from a registered supply owned and operated by their local council.

Five key parts of the report

1. Te Mana o te Wai
2. Key principles of drinking water safety
3. Safety of drinking water supplies
4. Drinking water supplier performance
5. Our performance and the extent to which the Water Services Act (the Act) is meeting its main purpose



Performance of the water sector

- Many suppliers are providing safe drinking water
- Some areas of concern include drinking water supplies with:
 - ▶ Long-term 'boil water' or 'do not use' notices in place
 - ▶ No treatment or other barriers to contamination
 - ▶ No Drinking Water Safety Plan.





What the data shows

Consumer advisories

- **36** councils and **3** government agencies issued consumer advisories for **117** supplies
- Can be an effective safety measure but long-term advisories likely to indicate systemic problems



Long-term consumers advisories

- **18** councils issued long-term advisories for **35** supplies
- **2** schools and **3** DOC campsites with long-term advisories



Notifications that exceed the MAV

- **37** councils found determinands (including *E. coli*) exceeding MAVs in **75** supplies
- *E. coli* was found exceeding MAV by:
 - **28** councils in **51** supplies
 - **45** schools, **6** DOC campsites and **1** NZDF facility



Drinking Water Safety Plans (DWSP)

- **95%** of council-owned supplies have either submitted a DWSP or informed us they use an Acceptable Solution
- **16%** of government owned supplies have either submitted a DWSP or informed us they use an Acceptable solution



Treating drinking water

Networked supplies with no residual disinfection and no Acceptable Solution



23 councils have **62** supplies lacking residual disinfection

8 schools, **30** DOC campsites and **1** NZDF facility lack residual disinfection

Supplies with no treatment and no Acceptable Solution



14 councils have **33** supplies lacking treatment

5 schools, **18** DOC campsites and **1** NZDF facility lack treatment



How we are responding

Our focus

- Every supplier has a duty to provide safe drinking water to their consumers.
- Understanding suppliers' pathway towards becoming compliant and how they will meet their duty.
- Acknowledge that some suppliers have begun significant work since the reporting period, 1 January to 31 December 2022.
- Ensuring compliance is increasing, and the quality of drinking water services improves.



Our focus

Long-term consumer advisories:

- Understanding the issues and how suppliers will manage the safety of their supplies to resolve reliance on consumer advisories.

No residual disinfection for reticulated supplies:

- Suppliers need to let us know when they will add residual disinfection (or their plan towards this) or if they are going to apply for an exemption.
- If we don't hear from them, we'll be in touch. Suppliers need to provide safe water in the meantime.



Drinking Water Safety Plans (DWSP)

- Registered drinking water supplies were required to provide us with a DWSP for the supplies they manage by 15 November 2022, unless using an Acceptable Solution.
- Contacting council and government suppliers who have not yet provided a DWSP for the supplies they manage.
- Working with Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga – Ministry of Education and Te Papa Atawhai – Department of Conservation who are developing a programme to address compliance issues at schools and conservation sites.
- Will begin to review DWSPs on a prioritised basis in accordance with our Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement Strategy (CME).

▶ CME: [taumataarowai.govt.nz/about/strategy and performance](https://taumataarowai.govt.nz/about/strategy-and-performance)

Unregistered supplies

- Supplies that were not required to register when the Ministry of Health was the regulator have until **November 2025** to register with Taumata Arowai and up to **November 2028** to fully comply with the Act.
- It's estimated there are potentially up to 75,000 unregistered supplies.
- Bringing these supplies into the regulatory system will give us a clearer picture of the quality of drinking water across Aotearoa.



For more information



- Drinking Water Regulation Report: taumataarowai.govt.nz/about/water-services-insights-and-performance
- Media release: taumataarowai.govt.nz/news/articles

Pātai | Questions?