
From: Info
Subject: FW: Water Services Authority - Taumata Arowai Update June 2026



Water Services Authority
Taumata Arowai

June 2026

Welcome to our new-look newsletter, updating you on what we have planned and how you can get involved.

We've been working on:

- supporting the first of the new water organisations
- making our drinking water rules clearer for level 3 supplies
- engaging with the sector on national engineering design standards
- providing guidance for self-supplied schools
- finding a solution to a long-running drinking water issue in Kāeo
- our first prosecution.

You can read more about these and more below.

Working together to improve our future



There is little more than a week to go before the first of the new water organisations stand up on 1 July 2026, joining Watercare and Selwyn Water in taking on the ownership and responsibilities previously held by councils in providing drinking water, wastewater and, in some cases, all or part of stormwater services to communities. The new water organisations are:

- **IAWAI Flowing Waters** (Hamilton and Waikato)
- **Waikato Waters** (Waipā, South Waikato and Waitomo)
- **Tiaki Wai** (Wellington, Porirua, Upper Hutt, Hutt City, Greater Wellington Regional Council)
- **Kaikōura Hurunui Water** (Kaikōura, Hurunui)

This is a major transition for the sector and for us. As part of our leadership role, we will be ramping up our engagement with the new entities to support them and ensure they deliver for the communities they serve.

By this time next year, a further 13 water organisations and 21 in-house business units are expected to be operating. At that point, approximately 83% of New Zealand's population on reticulated supply will be managed by dedicated water organisations.

While these new entities have challenges to navigate in the months ahead, we are optimistic that over time as the effects of greater borrowing capacity, more centralised services and professional boards show, we will start to see increased network resilience and greater compliance with our Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement Strategy.

Our website has helpful resources for the entities transitioning. If you have questions, please email OperationsSupport@taumataarowai.govt.nz.

Visit our website for resources

Level 3 Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules out soon

We expect to publish the revised **level 3 Rules for large supplies** very shortly, along with a transition timeline of the support and guidance we will provide for their smooth implementation from 1 July 2027. Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation.

The changes aim to make the Rules clearer and easier for suppliers to apply in practice, while maintaining strong public health protections. There is also a shift to a financial year basis for reporting - **for all suppliers, large and small** - because it better fits with many suppliers' planning and reporting cycles.

We'll publish the updated Rules, and the feedback we received during consultation, on our website and **email everyone affected by the changes**. We'll also host a webinar on Wednesday, 1 July and progressively release further guidance over the coming months.

Legal action over failures in Greymouth drinking water

The Water Services Authority has filed charges in the Greymouth District Court alleging failure to comply with the duty to supply safe drinking water. This is the Authority's first prosecution since it came into existence in 2021.

Read more



Engaging on national engineering design standards

We have started engaging on the national engineering design standards (the NEDS) for water infrastructure. These standards will help create a more consistent approach across New Zealand for stormwater, wastewater and drinking water infrastructure, while making it easier to design, approve and deliver infrastructure that is practical, resilient and fit for the future.

We are working with councils, water service providers, developers and technical experts to get the NEDS right. Over the coming months, we'll work with you to test options, refine the technical detail and make sure the standards work in practice for different providers and communities.

Visit our website to find out more about what the NEDS will cover, why they matter and how to get involved. If you have questions, please email neds@taumataarowai.govt.nz.

[Visit our website to find out more](#)



Self-supplied schools are working to provide safe drinking water

Last year's Drinking Water Regulation Report highlighted the issues at many self-supplied schools (those operating their own drinking water supply, e.g. through bores or rainwater tanks). These schools account for over half of all *E.coli* contamination incidents reported to us.

We've created a short video of an interview we recently had with Te Waha o Rerekohu Area School principal Lynn Burrell about her school's efforts to provide safe water for students and teachers.

We've also created a new suite of guidance resources on our website aimed to help other education leaders improve the drinking water safety at their schools.

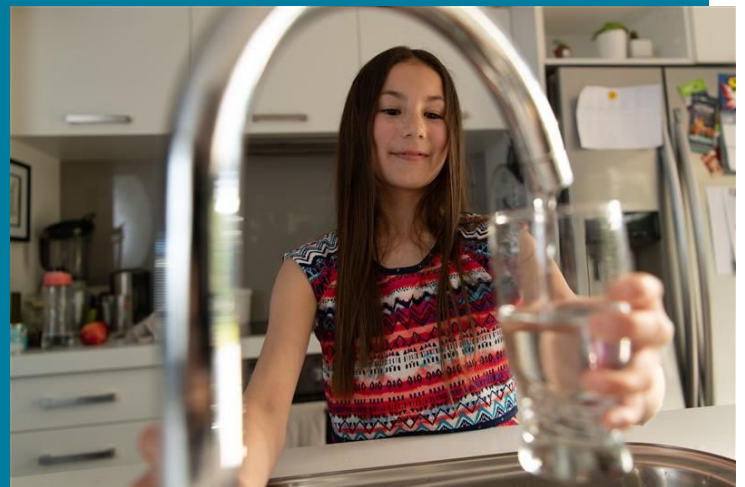
[Visit our website for guidance for schools](#)

Finding a solution for 10-year boil water notice in Kāeo

It's pleasing to see Far North District Council confirm a preferred long-term approach for homes and community buildings in Kāeo. For a community that has lived under a boil water advisory for more than a decade, this is a welcome sign of progress.

Over the past year, we've worked closely with the council, the supplier and the community to support both immediate fixes and a longer-term plan. The chosen solution – water tanks with end-point treatment for households, alongside Acceptable Solutions for community buildings – is a sensible and cost-effective way to provide safe, reliable drinking water for Kāeo.

This milestone shows what can be achieved when councils, communities and the regulator work together to solve complex challenges.



[Read the full article on our website to find out more.](#)

NOTICES AND REMINDERS

Further guidance for wastewater standards

We will publish guidance at the end of this month on the standard for discharge of wastewater to land. This follows guidance published earlier in the year on the standard for [discharge of wastewater to water](#). If you would like to be directly notified when this guidance is published, please email stormwater_wastewater@taumataarowai.govt.nz to be added to our mailing list.



We are also considering opportunities for further wastewater standards. We will keep you informed in upcoming newsletters and on our website.

Section 69 Local Government (Water Services) Act Assessments

Territorial authorities must conduct assessments of communities' access to drinking water under s 69 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 by 1 July 2026. Once you have completed your assessment, s 70 of the Act requires you to publish these on your website and provide a copy to us in electronic form. Please email yours to OpsSupport@taumataarowai.govt.nz.



Water services insights and performance reports coming soon

We are working on the 2024/25 Network Environmental Report, due out late July, which will include complete coverage for the first time of drinking water and wastewater. The report will include particular performance aspects of some councils and follows the [provisional release of data](#) in April.



We will also be providing guidance in July for the next round of performance reporting. We recognise the effort providers put into high-quality information and are always looking for ways to make this easier for you.

The Drinking Water Regulation Report 2025 will be released in September.

Help shape the future of urban stormwater management

New Zealand's stormwater systems are under growing pressure. Sector input is vital to help shape the role we play and prioritise the actions we take. At the Water NZ Stormwater Conference last month, we set the stage for a discussion about how we can support urban stormwater performance.



We will shortly seek feedback on a position paper we have prepared on stormwater to learn more about key challenges and opportunities. This will be published on our website in the coming weeks and promoted through our LinkedIn and other channels.

Please [email us](#) if you have any questions stormwater_wastewater@taumataarowai.govt.nz.

FIND OUT MORE



Drinking water notice templates

If there could be a risk to health from the drinking water you supply, you need to issue a Boil Water, Do Not Drink Water or Do Not Use Water notice, we have templates [on our website](#).

19 May 2026

Latest newsletter

Keep up to date with what we are working on, changes to legislation and areas we are consulting on.



2026

April 2026 newsletter	Download (PDF, 152 KB)
February 2026 newsletter	Download (PDF, 224 KB)

2025

December 2025 newsletter	Download (PDF, 160 KB)
October 2025 newsletter	Download (PDF, 168 KB)
September 2025 newsletter	Download (PDF, 167 KB)
August 2025 special update	Download (PDF, 153 KB)

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