

Drinking-Water Quality Management Policy

ORGANISATIONAL POLICY

POLICY REFERENCES	
• Sponsor:	Engineering Services Manager
• Effective date:	21 May 2020
• Internal review due:	Every three years
• Legal compliance:	This Policy relates to the New Zealand Drinking-water Safety Plan Framework. A list of other relevant legislation and guidance can be found in section 6.
• Associated Documents/References:	A list of associated Council documents can be found in section 6.
• Policy Number:	ES10
• Approved by Chief Executive:	Janine Dowding
• Approved by Council (If Applicable):	Full Council

Purpose

Tasman District Council (the Council) has responsibility for supplying drinking water to residents and businesses connected to its drinking-water supply schemes. It also has regional authority obligations to protect the quality of sources of drinking water in Tasman District.

The Council is committed to demonstrating good practice in the management of drinking-water quality in order to provide safe, high-quality drinking water that consistently meets the expectations of its consumers and the requirements of all relevant drinking-water legislation. This includes the New Zealand Drinking-water Safety Plan Framework, the Health Act 1956 (as amended), the Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand, and the National Environmental Standard for Sources of Human Drinking Water.

This document sets out the principles and policies which the Council uses to ensure it meets this commitment.

Definitions

Abstraction point means a location at which water in the environment is abstracted for use in a registered drinking-water supply (for example, the place at which water is abstracted from a river, stream, aquifer or groundwater source).

Drinking Water has the same meaning as in section 69G Health Act 1956.

Drinking Water Supply Scheme means a combination of source, treatment, pumping, storage and reticulation infrastructure used to deliver drinking water to properties.

Point of Supply means the point on the service pipe leading from the water main to the premises which marks the boundary of responsibility between the customer and the Council irrespective of property boundaries. This point is generally the position of a water meter or restrictor.

Residual Risk is the risk rating given to the hazard based on the likelihood and consequence after safety controls have been put in place.

Source Protection Zones are areas surrounding and upstream of source water in which land use activities are controlled to manage the risk of contamination.

Source Water means surface water or groundwater that is destined to enter an intake.

Water Safety Plan has the same meaning as in section 69G Health Act 1956.

Application

This Policy applies to Council-owned and operated drinking-water supply schemes. It does not apply to water sourced from private bores and water supply schemes¹ as outlined in Schedule 1 to this Policy.

This Policy does not replace any statutory requirements, including those of the Health Act 1956, the Building Act 2004 or the Resource Management Act 1991.

Principles

In meeting the purpose of this Policy, the Council is guided by the following principles of drinking-water safety in New Zealand:

- Principle 1: A high standard of care must be embraced
- Principle 2: Protection of source water is of paramount importance
- Principle 3: Maintain multiple barriers against contamination
- Principle 4: Change (including changes to processes and hazardous events) precedes contamination
- Principle 5: Suppliers must own the safety of drinking water
- Principle 6: Apply a preventive risk management approach

Policy

In meeting the purpose of this Policy, the Council has identified five key policy areas. These are:

1. Source to Tap Approach

The Council takes a source to tap approach for managing drinking-water quality, recognising that:

- Council, as a regional authority, has obligations to protect sources of human drinking water from becoming contaminated.

¹ Noting that the management of risks to sources of human drinking water in the Tasman District is anticipated to reduce risk to all drinking-water supplies.

- Council, as a supplier of drinking water, has a responsibility to provide safe drinking water to the point of supply.
- Consumers have responsibility for managing water quality from the point of supply to the tap. Council has a role in providing information to consumers to help them meet that responsibility.
- Council, as a Building Consent Authority, has responsibility for ensuring that the relevant requirements of the Building Code are met.²

The Council acknowledges that protection of source water is of paramount importance in protecting consumers against drinking-water contamination and illness. Current sources used by the Council include surface water and groundwater. Council will:

- a) Embrace a high standard of care to manage water quality at all points along the delivery chain
- b) Maintain an organisational sense of responsibility and dedication to providing consumers with safe drinking-water
- c) Monitor and manage land use activities upstream of abstraction points to ensure they do not impact on downstream drinking-water quality
- d) Maintain robust multiple barriers against contamination appropriate to the level of potential contamination and harm
- e) Ensure, where appropriate, source protection is enabled in the Tasman Resource Management Plan
- f) Develop, maintain and review Water Safety Plans (WSPs) for each supply scheme, that identify:
 - The critical control points for managing water quality
 - The needs and expectations of key stakeholders who could affect, or be affected by, decisions or activities to do with the drinking-water supply
 - Robust risk assessments and mitigation measures
 - Detailed improvement plans
 - Contingency plans to be implemented in respect of outages or contamination events

Schedule 1 contains a list of current Council-operated Drinking-water Supply Schemes.

2. Investment Priorities

The Council will prioritise investment in drinking-water supply infrastructure and source protection measures based on:

- a) The need to protect public health and safety
- b) Achieving and maintaining statutory compliance in having due regard for legislated timeframes
- c) Meeting the needs of current and future population

The Council will review its priorities for drinking-water supply infrastructure every three years in the Water Supply Activity Management Plan (WS-AMP).

The WS-AMP will include:

² Clause G12: Buildings provided with water outlets, sanitary fixtures or sanitary appliances must have safe and adequate water supplies.

- a) Key issues for the Water Supply Activity and Source Water Protection
- b) Priority projects for investment
- c) Levels of service
- d) Current and future demand
- e) Key risks and assumptions
- f) Financial forecasts
- g) A summary of any changes to legislation that have occurred.

The Council will review its priorities for source protection as it reviews the Tasman Regional Policy Statement and the Tasman Resource Management Plan.

3. Communication, engagement and consultation

The Council will ensure that mechanisms exist for the exchange of information between different parts of the Council and its drinking-water supply contractors. This will include:

- a) Regular formal meetings of the Drinking-water Safety Team
- b) Sharing of upstream monitoring results between regional science teams and utilities staff
- c) Contract management meetings between key utilities/engineering staff and key maintenance contractor staff
- d) Team briefings/toolbox talks between Council utilities staff, water treatment plant operators, and compliance staff

The Council will engage with Nelson City Council, Nelson Marlborough Health and central government to discuss regional water quality issues.

The Council will ensure that iwi, key stakeholders, regulators and customers are kept informed of drinking-water quality issues. This will include

- a) Staff (both with regional and territorial authority functions) holding regular meetings with regulators and Nelson Marlborough Health (the Drinking-water Working Party)
- b) Communication and engagement with iwi and customers affected by water quality events or outages
- c) Engaging with the community and iwi on strategic issues, investment priorities and risks through Long Term Plan consultation
- d) Engaging with the community, iwi and key stakeholders on source water protection measures through reviews of relevant resource management plans
- e) Providing relevant water quality information to consumers to allow them to manage water quality downstream of the point of supply
- f) Providing information to inform the community of water quality issues

4. Managing Risk

The Council's overarching approach to risk management is set out in the Risk Management Policy (2017) or any subsequent amendments to that Policy.

The Council acknowledges that contamination is almost always preceded by some kind of change (including changes to asset infrastructure, processes and hazardous events), and will monitor and respond appropriately to such changes.

The Council will use a preventive risk-based approach to identify and manage risks to drinking-water quality, by:

a) Proactively:

- Identifying threats and risks to water quality and quantity
- Asset planning to install/replace critical infrastructure before it fails
- Protecting drinking-water sources in the Tasman District using physical barriers and through the development of Source Protection Zones which include controls for high risk activities
- Monitoring, and reporting on, changes that could impact on drinking-water quality
- Developing and maintaining contingency plans and incident response capability

b) Reactively:

- Repairing faults/breakages as they occur
- Responding to, and investigating, customer complaints, suggestions and concerns
- Engaging with the regulators following an outage or contamination event
- Communicating with potentially affected customers following an outage or contamination event
- Undertaking compliance enforcement, as required, for contamination events in Source Protection Zones

Residual risks will be identified in a drinking-water supply risk register.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

a) Strategic

Council	<p>Strategic decision makers shall make decisions on drinking-water quality matters based on the Six Principles identified in this Policy.</p> <p>Staff involved in infrastructure planning, land use planning, and natural resource use planning all have a role to play in ensuring that risks to current and future drinking-water sources and supplies are identified and mitigated.</p>
Executive Leadership Team	
Engineering Services Manager	
Utilities Manager	
Activity Planning Manager	
Activity Planning Team	
Environment and Planning Manager	
Environmental Policy Manager	
Natural Resources Policy Team	
Environmental Information Manager	
Water Resource Scientists	

b) Operational

Engineering Services Manager	<p>Managers, staff and contractors involved in the operational monitoring of water resources and collection, treatment, storage</p>
Utilities Manager	
Water Engineers	
Water Quality Officer	

Water Supply Operations and Maintenance Contractor and Subcontractors	<p>and delivery of drinking water from source to tap have responsibility for identifying risks and ensuring that any changes that could impact on water quality are communicated in order to minimise downstream impacts on water quality.</p> <p>Staff take ownership and are committed to continually improving the drinking-water quality management system.</p>
Environment and Planning Manager	
Resource Consents Manager	
Natural Resources Consents Team	
Building Assurance Manager	
Building Consents Team	
Environmental Information Manager	
Environmental Monitoring Team	
Water Resource Scientists	

Key Legislation and Reference Documents

Government Legislation and Guidance

- Building Act 2004
- Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand 2005 (revised 2018)
- Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality Management for New Zealand (updated 2019)
- Handbook for Preparing a Water Safety Plan (2019)
- Health Act 1956 (as amended in 2007 and 2018)
- Local Government Act 2002
- National Environmental Standard for Sources of Human Drinking Water 2007
- New Zealand Drinking-water Safety Plan Framework (2018)
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Rural Agricultural Drinking-water Supply Guideline (2015)
- Water Safety Plan Guides for Drinking Water Supplies (2014)

Tasman District Council Documents

- Risk Management Policy (2017)
- Water Supply Activity Management Plan (2018)
- Water Supply Bylaw (Amended 2019)
- Tasman Regional Policy Statement (2001)
- Tasman Resource Management Plan (2008)



Authorised by Chief Executive



Approved by Mayor

(on behalf of Tasman District Council)

Schedule 1: Council-Operated Drinking-water Supply Schemes as of 1 March 2020

Scheme	Metered Connections	Restricted Rural Connections	Approximate number of people served	Source (Groundwater/ Surface Water)	Notes
Brightwater	1,068	183	2100	Groundwater	Urban, rural, lifestyle, agricultural, commercial
Collingwood	229	1	240	Groundwater	Urban
Dovedale	0	302	470	Surface water	Rural
Eighty-Eight Valley	0	193	450	Surface water	Rural
Kaiteriteri/ Riwaka	621	0	420 (summer:2000+)	Groundwater	Urban, large campground
Māpua Rise	80 (when operational)	0	190 (when operational)	Groundwater	Not in operation; this is maintained as a backup supply for emergencies only
Māpua / Ruby Bay	995	238	2230	Groundwater	Urban, rural, commercial
Motueka	1,300	0	4000	Groundwater	Urban, commercial
Murchison	307	1	430	Groundwater	Urban
Pōhara	53	0	160 (summer:1000+)	Surface water	Urban, 70% of houses are holiday homes/ baches; large campground
Redwood Valley 1	0	97	180	Groundwater	Rural
Redwood Valley 2	0	265	370	Groundwater	Rural
Richmond	5,660	145	14000	Groundwater	Urban, rural, commercial, industrial
Tapawera	168	1	300	Groundwater	Urban
Upper Takaka	19	0	40	Surface water	Urban
Wakefield	776	66	2100	Groundwater	Urban, rural

Council also provides a firefighting water supply in Takaka.

