

Policy on Drinking-Water Quality

Introduction

Providing safe, reliable drinking-water is a key component in fulfilling our vision of making Waitaki “the best place to be” and for “empowering our people and place to thrive”.

Specifically, provision of safe and secure quality drinking-water contributes to the following Council Community Outcomes:

- **Strong communities:**
Enable safe and healthy communities
- **Quality services:**
Robust core infrastructure and services
- **Valued environment:**
Protecting our diverse landscapes and water bodies
Meeting environmental and climate change challenges

Providing safe, reliable drinking water also aligns with Council’s strategic priorities, notably:

- Providing high quality core infrastructure and services
- Determining the best way to deliver 3-waters for the community
- Striving towards better Council performance

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out Council's long-term commitment to providing safe and secure drinking-water to the communities of Waitaki and to guide decision-making and activities which support this commitment.

It provides a basis for decision-making and activities through promoting:

- awareness and understanding of the importance of drinking-water quality management, and how decisions affect the protection of public health
- an organisational philosophy that fosters commitment to taking action that supports drinking-water safety and security, and cultivates employee responsibility and motivation
- the ongoing and active involvement of senior leadership to maintain and reinforce the importance of drinking-water quality management to all of Council’s elected members and employees, as well as those outside the organisation.

Policy statement

Waitaki District Council is committed to managing its water supplies to provide safe, high-quality drinking-water that consistently meets the expectations of the New Zealand Drinking-water Safety Plan Framework, the requirements of the Health (Drinking-Water) Amendment Act 2007 and Drinking-Water Standards for New Zealand, other relevant legislation, and consumers.

To meet this commitment, Council will:

1. Manage and develop water treatment facilities, reticulation and associated assets to meet the requirements of the applicable Ministry of Health's Drinking-Water Standards for New Zealand and other regulatory requirements, while also making provision for the needs and requirements of future supply consumers where possible and appropriate.
2. Continue to regularly monitor and assess the quality of drinking-water on our supplies (including source water), and provide relevant and timely information to regulators, decision-makers, and the community, as required.
3. Develop and maintain a comprehensive risk identification, analysis and management framework for drinking-water supply based on robust data and best practice.
4. Take a proactive approach to addressing potential drinking-water (including source water) quality issues through regular review and analysis of available data, and implementation of preventative measures (including multiple-barrier protection, where required) and current industry best practice.
5. Regularly review and develop contingency planning and incident response capability, and take appropriate improvement actions, where required.
6. Ensure adequate staffing and resources are in place to effectively deliver drinking-water supply which meets regulatory requirements, the needs of consumers, and Council's strategic priorities and objectives.
7. Promote and support a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional development, which includes ensuring appropriate training of all employees and providing opportunities for up-skilling and expanding internal capabilities.
8. Support and audit contractors to implement best practices for water supply facility and reticulation operations and maintenance.
9. Regularly assess drinking-water supply performance against regulatory requirements, Council's strategic objectives and stakeholder expectations, and implement improvements and efficiencies where required, or where there is a clear cost-benefit for consumers and/or ratepayers.
10. Remain informed on national drinking-water regulations and policy, attend industry events and forums, actively participate in the setting of national and regional industry regulations and guidelines, and take a leadership role on drinking-water quality at the local level.
11. Engage with the community and key stakeholders on drinking-water quality issues and seek to integrate their needs and service level expectations where possible and practicable, and with consideration to regulatory requirements and Council's overall strategic objectives.
12. Engage with local Rūnanga on drinking-water supply and quality issues in accordance with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and established agreements and protocols.
13. Communicate this policy to our communities, key stakeholders and any other relevant party, as appropriate, and include reference to the policy in relevant consultation and Council decision-making documents.



Waitaki
DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

This Drinking-Water Quality Policy is approved by the Waitaki District Council Chief Executive and Mayor for Waitaki in accordance with Council resolution WDC 2020/261.

A blue ink signature of Fergus Power, written over a horizontal line.

Fergus Power

Chief Executive

A blue ink signature of Gary Kircher, written over a horizontal line.

Gary Kircher

Mayor for Waitaki

15 December 2020

Date

15/12/2020

Date