



Open Briefing: Safe water every day for everyone?

5 March 2026 – 11.30am

Attendees

Elected Members: Mayor Fauono Laban, Cr Barratt, Deputy Mayor Brown, Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Cr Lewis, Cr Mitchell, Cr Parkin, Cr Ravi (via audio-visual link), Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, Cr Tonga-Grant, Cr Yung.

Staff: J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer; A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities; J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development; S Blackmore, Programme Partner Lead; P Hewitt, Head of Transport; H Bell, Advisor Water Services and V Gilmour, Democracy Advisor.

Apologies

Cr Puketapu

Presenter

Tim Cadogan, Engagement Specialist, Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai

Introduction and Key Objectives of the Briefing

The purpose of the briefing is to provide an overview of Taumata Arowai's role, the current drinking water and wastewater regulatory framework, and the expectations on councils and future water service entities.

Presentation by Tim Cadogan, Engagement Specialist, Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai

Slide 1 – Cover page (Header)

Slide 2 – Safe water every day for everyone?

Slide 3 – Getting the basics in place

Slide 4 – Multi-barrier protection

Slide 5 – Council Supplies

Slide 6 – What suppliers can expect

Slide 7 – Our Community Supplies Team

Slide 8 – Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules

Slide 9 – Acceptable Solutions

Slide 10 – Discharge to water standard

Slide 11 – Other roles

Slide 12 – Our reports

Slide 13 – Questions

Questions and discussion points

- Drinking water safety is an ongoing issue, with E. coli contamination continuing across the country, including in some council supplies. While most water is safe, not all is, which is why regulation remains important.
- Councils are responsible for meeting water standards, responding quickly to any risks, maintaining their systems and improving the resilience of their networks. All water supplies are expected to be more resilient by 2028.

- Nitrate levels in drinking water are monitored against national limits based on international health guidance. Some areas are experiencing higher levels, and this is being closely monitored.
- Taumata Arowai takes a risk-based approach to water regulation. Larger council supplies are more closely monitored because more people are affected if something goes wrong.
- Wastewater systems can be affected during heavy rain, when stormwater enters the network and causes overflows. National standards to manage this are being developed and are expected to be in place by 2028.
- The transition to the new water services entity (Tiaki Wai) reflects the increasing complexity of water management and the need for more specialised governance and expertise.

Briefing materials

Attachment 1 – Presentation: [Safe water every day for everyone? Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai 5 March 2026](#)

The briefing closed at 11.50am