



Water Services Authority
Taumata Arowai

This legislation is administered by Water Services Authority—Taumata Arowai. For more information please see:

Website: <http://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz>

Contact phone: +64 4 889 8350

Contact address: PO Box 628, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Water Services (Exemption No. 005, Riverlands Industrial) General Exemption 2026

This exemption is granted under section 57 of the Water Services Act 2021 by the Head of Operations, acting under delegated authority from the Chief Executive of the Water Services Authority—Taumata Arowai after being satisfied that the exemption is consistent with the main purpose of the Act.

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1 Title

This is the Water Services (Exemption No. 005, Riverlands Industrial) General Exemption 2026.

2 Commencement

This exemption comes into force on 2 October 2026.

3 Interpretation

In this exemption unless the context otherwise requires,—

Act means the [Water Services Act 2021](#)

Authority means Water Services Authority—Taumata Arowai

4 Exemption

- (1) Marlborough District Council, in relation to the Riverlands Industrial drinking water supply (RIV002), is exempt from compliance with the following requirements of the Act:
 - (a) to supply safe drinking water (section 21):
 - (b) to protect against the risk of backflow (section 27):
 - (c) requirements relating to end-point treatment (section 28):
 - (d) to have a drinking water safety plan (section 30).
- (2) This exemption is subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) end-point treatment devices must be installed at all premises where drinking water is available to consumers within six months of the commencement of the exemption:
 - (b) Marlborough District Council must meet the following requirements of the [Water Services \(Small to Medium Networks\) Drinking Water Acceptable Solution 2025](#) once (a) is met:
 - (i) SMN.1 End-point treatment must be used at consumers properties:
 - (ii) SMN.2 Exceptions to end-point treatment requirements may apply in respect of connected drinking water supplies:
 - (iii) SMN.3 End-point treatment must meet population and building limits
 - (iv) SMN.4 End-point must be effective:
 - (v) SMN.5 UV disinfection systems must be validated for designated buildings:
 - (vi) SMN.8 Bore, spring and surface water must be monitored:
 - (vii) SMN.10 Springs and bores must be protected:
 - (viii) SMN.13 Monitoring results must be made available:
 - (ix) SMN.14 Information about testing must be provided:
 - (x) SMN.17 All connections must have backflow protection:
 - (xi) SMN.20 People working on the drinking water supply must be competent:
 - (c) Marlborough District Council must maintain a monitoring programme for microbiological indicators *E. coli* and total coliforms that includes three samples of source water each week at the Malthouse bore taken on different days of the week and one sample every nine days from the distribution network:
 - (d) Marlborough District Council must prepare and provide to the Authority within six weeks of the commencement of the exemption, an operations, monitoring and incident response plan for the supply which takes account of the circumstances of the supply, this exemption and the installation and maintenance of end-point treatment devices.

5 Reasons for granting exemption

This exemption has been granted for the following reasons:

- (a) having regard to the scale, complexity and risk profile of the Riverlands Industrial drinking water supply and subject to the conditions above, this exemption is consistent with the main purpose of the Water Services Act 2021 (other than the duty to have a drinking water safety plan):
- (b) it is impracticable for Marlborough District Council to comply with the statutory duties that would otherwise apply.

6 Term of exemption

This exemption expires on the close of the day that is five years after the date on which it commences, unless it is replaced or revoked sooner.

Made at Wellington on 1 October 2026.

Steve Taylor
Head of Operations
Water Services Authority—Taumata Arowai

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the Exemption but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This exemption commences on 2 October 2026. This Exemption exempts Marlborough District Council from compliance with a range of duties under the Water Services Act 2021 for the Riverlands Industrial drinking water supply. The exemption enables the use of end-point treatment for the purposes of supplying safe drinking water due to the impracticability of using centralised treatment including chlorination for this supply.

This exemption is subject to conditions requiring end-point treatment at connected properties which reference the *Water Services (Small to Medium Networks) Drinking Water Acceptable Solution 2025*, maintenance of an existing monitoring programme and operations, monitoring and incident response planning.

Consistency with principles of responsible regulation

The Water Services Authority—Taumata Arowai provides the following documents relating to its review of this secondary legislation, and its process for developing it, for consistency with the principles of responsible regulation under the Regulatory Standards Act 2025:

- a consistency accountability statement on 2 October 2026:

A copy of this document can be found at—

- <https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/drinking-water-suppliers-and-operators/for-drinking-water-suppliers/ways-to-comply/exemptions>

This is secondary legislation issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019 .	
Title	Water Services (Exemption No. 003, Riverland Industrial) General Exemption 2026
Instrument ID	
Empowering Act and provisions	Water Services Act 2021 Section 57
Administering agency	Water Services Authority—Taumata Arowai
Date made	1 October 2026
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Consolidation as at date	Not applicable