

Webinar key points

We held our third webinar for whānau, hapū and iwi on 14 June 2022. Here's a summary of the kōrero.

Katy Te Amo, Head of Strategy and Insights at Taumata Arowai

Katy facilitated the webinar. After a warm welcome, she recapped on previous webinars, touched on our whakapapa and Te Mana o te Wai, and introduced the speakers. We were joined by guest speakers Guy Taylor, Therese Thornton and Leigh Aitken from Raupunga, south of Wairoa in Hawke's Bay, who shared their journey setting up and running their water supply.

Raukura Huata, Principal Advisor at Taumata Arowai

Raukura shared her team's progress working with Māori suppliers who were previously registered as drinking water suppliers with the Ministry of Health.

Contact and supply details of these registered kāinga were transferred to us from the Ministry of Health when we took over as the regulator. As much of the data is out of date, it's taking a lot of work to find the right contacts, verify their details and support them to set up accounts in our online self-service portal, called Hinekōrako. Raukura is part of a dedicated team of five Taumata Arowai staff who have been focused on this.

They've learnt that small, registered Māori drinking water suppliers are a combination of mixed Iwi entities, kura kaupapa Māori, kōhanga reo, marae, papakāinga, and densely populated Māori communities who are registered to supply drinking water.

Raukura shared some common questions and topics that registered Māori suppliers have expressed including:

- Interest in more information on the registration process
- What the changes mean for their water supply
- Whether the changes will affect ownership of their supply
- What partnership with Taumata Arowai could look like
- What funding, training and support is available.

This has provided valuable learnings for us as to the issues of most concern to these suppliers and communities, and we're working to provide information to address these questions.

Theresa Thornton from Raupunga

Theresa shared the community's journey over the past ten to fifteen years to establish their water supply. She spoke about the challenges they have overcome including funding and figuring out a technical solution to source water from the Mangawharangi Stream and transport it five kilometres to the community.

The water supply is owned and operated by the Ngāti Pahauwera Incorporated Society, who are a community group based in Raupunga. It's completely volunteer-run and Guy and the team put a lot of time into it in the spirit of community service.

The supply provides treated potable water to a population of 250 people and Theresa said it has enabled several people to return home to Raupunga in recent years. She spoke about the challenges of running the water supply on a very low income.

Guy Taylor from Raupunga

Guy is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Raupunga water supply. He acknowledged the incredible hard work of Theresa and other mana wāhine who helped establish the supply.

Guy described various components of the water supply, which includes filtration, UV treatment, chlorination, storage tanks and remote monitoring. He said they charge \$1 per household per day to operate the supply and have an annual operating cost of \$12,000 - \$15,000 though this doesn't include all the volunteer labour that he and other community members put in.

Guy spoke about the aspects of their water supply that they expect to review in response to new regulations and how they are working with Taumata Arowai to understand and meet these requirements. He offered to share the drinking water safety plan they have prepared with others.

Leigh Aitken from Raupunga

Leigh has provided technical assistance to Guy and the Raupunga community throughout the set-up and maintenance process. He spoke about the work that went into constructing the supply network and how Raupunga has managed to establish a partnership with a local quarry to help fund supply operations.

Ray McMillan, Head of Regulatory at Taumata Arowai

Ray thanked Theresa, Guy and Leigh for sharing their incredible story.

He outlined the following:

- **Registered** kāinga, like Raupunga, have up to **15 November 2022** to submit their drinking water safety plan to Taumata Arowai.
- Unlike the old system under the Ministry of Health, Taumata Arowai will **not** be “approving” drinking water safety plans.
- We recognise water suppliers know their supplies best and that every supply is unique. Our responsibility is to make sure the requirements are reasonable, to provide information and support to help keep the supply going.
- If you're **unregistered**, you have up to **November 2025** to register and **November 2028** to become fully compliant with the Water Services Act.
- It's going to take significant time for us to get in touch with unregistered suppliers and for them to understand what's required.
- These timeframes give us the chance to understand the unique situations and needs so that we can design a regulatory system that works.

Ray gave an overview of our recent consultation. The seven documents we consulted on will set a foundation for the new regulatory framework.

New Drinking Water Standards and new Aesthetic Values were published in June. They will come into effect on 14 November 2022.

We're currently revising the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules and the three proposed Acceptable Solutions based on the feedback we received from public consultation earlier in the year. Acceptable Solutions provide alternative compliance options for certain supply types. If you implement one in full, you'll comply with the Water Services Act and won't need to provide a drinking water safety plan. Acceptable solutions are new and we may produce more as we learn more and identify new situations where they may be useful and appropriate.

We also consulted on our approach to monitoring and reporting on the environmental performance of drinking water networks. These measures will apply to council suppliers and government agencies and will help us understand how we can look after the water once it leaves the treatment plant. This is the first time this kind of monitoring and reporting has been required and Ray expressed his excitement to see how this information can help in the implementation of Te Mana o te Wai.

Ray shared the themes from consultation relevant to Māori suppliers. You can read more about these in the [presentation](#).

Ray explained we're learning a huge amount from working with registered Māori suppliers like Raupunga. He pointed out that we're a small team and we'll get out and kōrero as much as possible, but it will take time, so we ask for your patience. It's our priority to make sure our guidance reflects the way marae and kāinga use and supply water.

Pātai/Questions

While there were only a few questions, many attending the webinar expressed their gratitude and mihi to Raupunga for sharing their journey.

For more information

Visit our website taumataarowai.govt.nz or email any pātai / questions to info@taumataarowai.govt.nz.