

Webinar key points

We held our second webinar for whānau, hapū and iwi on 17 February 2022. Taumata Arowai Head of Strategy and Insights Katy Te Amo facilitated the webinar which was broken into two sections with an opportunity for pātai at the end of each.

The Chair, Tipa Mahuta, and Deputy Chair, Ian Ruru, of Te Puna (our Māori advisory group) introduced [Te Puna members](#) and spoke about their mahi to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai and te Tiriti.

- Tipa and Ian spoke to their personal love and commitment to wai and how important it is that we can swim and gather mahinga kai without getting sick.
- They said He Pukapuka Orotau i Waenga i Te Poari me te Puna, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Taumata Arowai Board and Te Puna, has just been finalised and will guide the way the two groups work together.
- Te Mana o te Wai is about people in places. There's no one answer. It will be different for each place. Tipa spoke about forming fluid partnerships around the motu to work towards that.
- Tipa also spoke about the aim of working seamlessly together with different agencies to navigate the many policy changes affecting wai at the moment, e.g. Resource Management Act (RMA) reform and source water risk management.

Principal Advisor Māori, Raukura Huata spoke about her mahi to understand the concerns of Māori drinking water suppliers around the motu.

- Raukura has been prioritising her engagement with (around 125) registered Māori suppliers who were previously registered with the Ministry of Health. These include mixed iwi entities, kura kaupapa Māori, kōhanga reo, marae, papakāinga and densely populated Māori communities.
- Raukura emphasised how it's very important for us to learn and engage in kōrero to find out what's needed.
- Kanohi ki te kanohi engagement has been slowed down by COVID but we hope to come out and meet more people soon.
- Our goal is to work collectively alongside whānau to find solutions that work.
- We'll provide in-person support for registered Māori suppliers to help understand and navigate the system from registration to identifying sources of funding.

Head of Regulatory, Ray McMillan spoke about the roadmap ahead for both registered and unregistered suppliers and encouraged attendees to have their say on proposed rules and Acceptable Solutions through [Te Puna Kōrero](https://te-puna-korero.taumataarowai.govt.nz), our consultation and engagement hub at te-puna-korero.taumataarowai.govt.nz.

- When Ministry of Health transferred 75-80 marae to us, we didn't know who they were or why they were registered. It's very important for us to learn and engage in kōrero.
- The Water Services Act 2021 sets out different timelines for registered and unregistered suppliers:
 - Registered suppliers have until 15 November 2022 to submit a drinking water safety plan to us. We'll provide support to help them do that.
 - Unregistered suppliers have plenty of time – up until November 2025 to register and up until November 2028 to fully comply with the Water Services Act 2021.
- We've developed new Drinking Water Standards, Quality Assurance Rules and Acceptable Solutions, which will eventually apply to all drinking water suppliers. We need feedback from both registered and unregistered marae, papakāinga and other small Māori suppliers to let us know if they will work.
- Acceptable Solutions are ready-made options which mean you don't have to follow the quality assurance rules and submit a drinking water safety plan.
- Have your say at: te-puna-korero.taumataarowai.govt.nz/. Submissions close on **28 March 2022**.

Regulatory Team Leader, Peter Wood, who is based in Papaioea, explained the three drinking water Acceptable Solutions which we're currently seeking feedback on:

- **Acceptable Solution for Roof Drinking Water Supplies** – lots of marae rely on rainwater supplies. The rain is good as it comes from the sky but the roof affects it, e.g. bird poo or fertiliser from aerial top dressing. This Acceptable Solution looks at protecting water and making it safe if something goes wrong.
- **Acceptable Solution for Spring and Bore Drinking Water Supplies** – this provides a solution for marae, papakāinga, small communities, and camping grounds who take water from a spring or bore and supply it to fewer than 500 people.
- **Acceptable Solution for Rural Agricultural Drinking Water Supplies** – when at least 65% of the water is used for stock or irrigation but some water is used to drink. This solution uses “point-of-entry” or “end-point-treatment” which are attached to the side of houses or buildings to just treat a portion of the water supply.
- These three Acceptable Solutions are currently being piloted by the Department of Internal Affairs.
- More may be developed as we learn about the needs of different suppliers, e.g. there's no current Acceptable Solution for surface water sources like streams and lakes.
- Acceptable Solutions are not mandatory. They're an option that suppliers can choose to use; or they can meet their responsibilities in other ways.
- We're looking at the costs of implementing these Acceptable Solutions so suppliers can make informed decisions.

Raupunga Water Supply

- Peter spoke very highly of the water supply at Raupunga which he and Raukura visited recently – a treated river water system supplying beautiful water to around 300 people including a marae, kaumātua flats and two kōhanga. Guy Taylor, who runs the Raupunga supply, offered to speak at the webinar but unfortunately, we were unable to hear him due to technical problems. We hope to hear from him in a future webinar.

General discussion

- **We try and influence and understand other agencies** – Chief Executive Bill Bayfield spoke about our efforts to work closely with other agencies in the water space and to be as broad as possible in the way we provide information and answer your questions.
- **Protecting source water** – Taumata Arowai is proposing new rules to require suppliers to monitor source water for several contaminants, including some herbicides and pesticides. This is the first time such requirements have existed. The Ministry for the Environment also have a paper on source water protection. These go hand in hand.
- **Chlorine alternatives** – we discussed whether ozone could be used as an alternative to chlorine. There's currently no option to use ozone in our proposed rules, but it's under consideration. We want to be responsive as new and safer treatments become available.
- **Careers and opportunities in wai** – there's a huge range of work opportunities coming up in the sector – from serving small rural drinking water schemes to working in the four proposed water services entities.

Closing comments

- **We need your help connecting** – Tipa Mahuta acknowledged the networks that webinar participants are already part of. There's an urgency to connect meaningfully and to bring together clusters of marae and kāinga to work together to do this mahi.
- **Thanks from Bill, the CE** – these forums help us to understand and connect to the whole picture of wai, of which we're a small part. Bill thanked everyone for coming along and encouraged people to call or email with any questions. You're special and important to us and we'll work with you to understand what you need.

For more information

- Watch our [Whakapapa and Kaupapa video](#) to find out about who Taumata Arowai is, where we've come from, our purpose, and our vision for the water services sector.
- Visit our website www.taumataarowai.govt.nz or email any pātai / questions to info@taumataarowai.govt.nz.