



Riverlands Water Supply Advisory

Boil or treat your tap water before drinking

The Water Services Act 2021 (the Act) requires Marlborough District Council, as the drinking water supplier, to mitigate any risks to public health arising from the supply of drinking water. This now requires the Council to manage the possible public health risk that exists due to the potential for bacteria and/or protozoa to be present in the Riverlands water supply.

The Riverlands water supply currently has no treatment barriers. There is a medium risk of bacteria, such as Salmonella and Campylobacter and low risk of Protozoa, such as Cryptosporidium and Giardia, contaminating the supply. If this were to occur it will cause illness through consumption of drinking water.

This risk has been highlighted to industry through the annual release of the attached compliance letter showing the supply does not comply with the Act 2021.

Boiling water is an effective treatment for bacteria and protozoa.

Industry, residents and visitors to Riverlands, including Redwood Pass, Malthouse Road and Cob Cottage Road are advised that a Boil Water Advisory is in place until at least June 2028 unless the advisory is lifted earlier:

Boil any water used for the following:

- Drinking
- Brushing teeth
- Making ice or juices
- Preparing food or baby formula
- Pets drinking water
- Washing fruit and vegetables

How to boil water for drinking:

- Bring water to a rolling boil for at least one minute, then allow it to cool naturally before use
- Refrigerate until needed

Please share this information with neighbours and friends in the affected area.

Protozoa are microscopic organisms that can cause:

- Diarrhoea
- Abdominal cramps
- Bloating
- Nausea
- Gas

Babies, young children, pregnant women, the elderly and people who have weakened immune systems are more at risk of illness.

If you have a high-quality cartridge filter with a five micron or less pore size, followed by an ultraviolet disinfection unit, which are well-maintained and supply water to your entire house, there is no need to boil your water.

Businesses requiring water in their processes or delivery of service to customers or for staff facilities may need to consider treating water within their premises to provide safe drinking water. This might require installation of point of use high-quality cartridge filter with a five micron or less pore size, followed by an ultraviolet disinfection unit.

There has been no change to the water supplied on this scheme, however the absence of treatment barriers presents a risk to public health. Boiling water for consumption until the treatment plant upgrade is completed will remove this low risk.

Protozoa can be present if the source water becomes contaminated particularly when the Ōpaoa River near the bore is in flood.

This advisory is a means to managing the bacteria and protozoa risk until such time as a water treatment plant is constructed to provide treatment removing both bacteria and protozoa. When the new treatment plant is complete, the boil water notice will be lifted.

The Council is currently planning and designing the new treatment plant for completion by June 2028. Land has been purchased, new wells drilled, resource consents have been applied for, and landowner negotiations are on-going to secure a pipe corridor to convey water from the new treatment plant to Riverlands. One of these landowners is KiwiRail.

Updates of progress on the treatment plant construction will be provided on Council's website.

The boil water advisory will be published in the Council notices page in the Weekend Express weekly, and notification emailed to all connected properties at times of higher risk, generally during Ōpaoa River floods.

Additional Information:

There are frequently asked questions (FAQ's) regarding the boil water advisory on Council's web page. We suggest this is referred to before ringing Council with questions as this is likely to answer the most common queries.

Additional information can be found on Taumata Arowai and Te Whatu Ora websites as follows:

Taumata Arowai web:

<https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/>

What is a boil water notice:

<https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/for-communities/emergencies/drinking-water-notices>

How to make water safe during a boil water notice –

<https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/for-communities/emergencies/treating-water>

Cryptosporidiosis:

This link will provide information [Cryptosporidium](#)

Giardia: [Giardia](#)



RICHARD CONINGHAM
GROUP MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

18 July 2025



3 July 2024

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Ask For: Stephen Rooney

To Whom It May Concern

Compliance with the Water Services Act 2021 during 2023-2024

During the 12 months ending 30 June 2024 sampling for E.coli was undertaken for all Council water supplies to show microbiological compliance with the Water Services Act 2021 (the Act). The following comments are made with regard the **Riverlands and Cloudy Bay Business Park** water supply.

While sampling has shown compliance with the Microbiological Standard, Council is unable to prove compliance for Protozoa and does not currently provide residual disinfection of the network.

Treatment will be necessary to show compliance with the Act to meet Protozoa compliance, Council is currently planning to construct a treatment plant to achieve this. Completion is expected during ~~2025/26~~ June 2028. Consultation with industry in the industrial estates has commenced with more planned. In the meantime, if industries require the water used in their processing to meet the full requirements of the Act, treating of water within the plant or premises may be necessary.

The Ministry of Health no longer publishes an Annual Report of Drinking Water Quality. They ceased doing so in June 2021.

The new drinking water compliance regulator is Taumata Arowai. Their report on water supply compliance for the period 1 January to 31 December 2023 was published in late June 2024 and can be found on their website.

In the interim, Council has engaged an independent expert to review and verify Council's compliance results. His report will be available in September 2024 and can be provided on request.

I trust this information is to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN ROONEY
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE ENGINEER