



29 November 2022

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Ask For: Stephen Rooney

To Whom It May Concern

Compliance with the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand 2021-2022

During the 12 months ending 30 June 2022 sampling for E.Coli was undertaken for all Council water supplies to show microbiological compliance with The Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand (2008). The following comments are made with regard the **Awatere Rural** water supply.

A MIOX (mixed oxidant) treatment plant to treat the Awatere rural water supply is in place dosing chlorine into the network at Blairich. The plant produces chlorine from salt. This is effective in destroying bacteria when the water is clean and clear. This enables the water to meet the bacteriological requirements of the Drinking Water Standards for NZ (2008) when the water from the stream is clean and clear.

When the stream from which water is extracted is in flood and the water is dirty the chlorine becomes ineffective. During these periods there is risk of bacteria and viruses being present. On these occasions the water supply is non-compliant in the Awatere and Dashwood rural zones. For this reason, there is a permanent boil water notice in place.

Marlborough District Council is unable to provide sufficient evidence to meet the protozoa compliance criteria of the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards for the Awatere and Dashwood rural zones of the supply. Water from the Blackbirch Stream is an open catchment. The water is unfiltered. As such, these zones of the supply do not comply with the Protozoa (Giardia and Cryptosporidium) compliance requirements of the standard.

Should industries or water users in the Awatere and Dashwood rural zones require water used in their operation to meet the full requirements of the standards, 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. It is anticipated they will commence reporting on water supply compliance from 1 January 2023.

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

I trust this information is to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN ROONEY
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE ENGINEER