

OVERVIEW OF GOVERNMENT THREE WATERS REFORMS

1. The Government Three Waters reforms contains 3 Pou or Poles/Pillars:
 - a. Pou tautahi: Taumata Arowai, water regulator.
 - b. Pou taurua: Regulatory Reform, Water Services Bill.
 - c. Pou tatoru: Service delivery reform. Equitable access to more affordable and reliable water services.

Pou tautahi: Taumata Arowai <https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/>

2. Taumata Arowai is the national Water Quality Regulator
3. Taumata Arowai state on their website: We will work collaboratively across Aotearoa, taking our lead from Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Mana o te Wai.
4. Our aro:
 - a. Providing leadership on the three waters: drinking water, wastewater and stormwater. Holding ourselves and water service suppliers to account.
 - b. Setting, promoting, advising on, enforcing, and monitoring the national standards for drinking water.
 - c. Promoting and advising on the national standards, and shining a light on the performance of wastewater and stormwater.
 - d. Building relationships, trust, and confidence within communities and those we work alongside.
 - e. Administering and managing in partnership for current and future generations.
 - f. Lifting sector capability, capacity, leadership and equitable opportunities for Aotearoa in reaching those standards.

Pou taurua: Water Services Bill

<https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/for-water-suppliers/the-water-services-bill/>

- a. Currently in Select Committee
 - b. Expected to be enacted second half of 2021
 - c. Empowering Act for Taumata Arowai
 - d. Water Services Bill – submissions closed 2 March 2021, a huge number of submissions received.
5. Introduced into Parliament in July 2020, the Bill:
 - a. was informed by consultation with targeted engagement with iwi and Māori, Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), Kāhui Wai Māori and a technical advisory group
 - b. sets out the regulatory framework that Taumata Arowai will administer.
6. If passed, the Act will:
 - a. significantly extend and strengthen the drinking water regulatory framework

- b. provide oversight and national-level reporting functions for wastewater and stormwater – ‘shine a light’ on the system. Regional councils will continue to be the regulator of wastewater and stormwater
 - c. incorporate requirements relating to Te Mana o te Wai.
- 7. Taumata Arowai:
 - a. will administer the regulatory framework set out in the Bill, which is expected to be passed in the second half of 2021
 - b. has been established as an independent Crown entity under separate legislation – the Taumata Arowai–the Water Services Regulator Act 2020.
- 8. Main features of the Water Services Bill:
 - a. At all times drinking water suppliers have a primary duty to supply safe drinking water.
 - b. Transition arrangements mean that large suppliers (serving 500 or more people) must have a drinking water safety plan by the end of year one. Small suppliers (serving less than 500 people) have a five-year transition period to complete their drinking water safety plans.
 - c. All people with functions and duties under the legislation to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai.
 - d. The legislation is being implemented according to scale, complexity and risk – not a ‘one size fits all’ approach.
 - e. The regulatory framework is consistent with international best practice.
 - f. There is a strong focus on capability – new authorisation and occupational regulation requirements will be established through secondary legislation. Local authorities are required to meet authorisation requirements within five years.

Pou tautora: Water Service Delivery (Structural) Reform

- a. Multi-Regional water service delivery entities – models from 1-15:
 - i. currently favoured models are 3-4 entities
 - ii. One entity for most of the South Island - Ngāi Tahu takiwā (tribal territory)
- b. Statutory Entities with asset ownership, ability to take on higher debt than Councils
- c. Maori Governance and Commercial Boards appointed
- d. Te Mana o te Wai principles embedded
- e. Government decisions to be announced May-July 2021
- f. Entity set up and transition July 2022
- g. Probable 4-year transition period