

## ARF013 Drinking Water Resilience

### Risk Status Progress Report August 2022

Prepared: 19/07/2022

#### Description of risk and impact

In accordance with our Risk Management Policy, adopted by Council August 2019, the “Drinking Water Resilience” risk was adopted at the 05/07/20 Council meeting as a top organisational risk. This risk was scored and prioritised using Council’s bespoke IDEATE methodology.

Council own and operate eight drinking water schemes supplied by 14 primary and supplementary sources and nine water treatment plants.

The primary source for Kaikohe, Kaitia, Opononi, Rawene, Kawakawa and Paihia are surface water takes from local rivers and streams. Kerikeri also relies heavily on surface water as its secondary source. For each of these surface water takes Council hold a consent issued by the Northland Regional Council. The consents have conditions relating to many things but most importantly:

- the volume of water FNDC is authorised to take, and
- the instantaneous residual flow we are required to leave in the environment.

Surface water takes are impacted by droughts. Droughts typically cover a large geographical area; not just a single catchment or community. Irrespective of the volume of water FNDC is consented to take, there is a 20 percent chance each year that we will not be authorised to take water from the surface water sources for a week or more.

Group / SLT	Risk level	Inherent Risk	Risk description	Because of	There is a chance that...	leading to...
Infrastructure and Asset Management	Organisational	35	Strategic	Lack of freshwater resilience - long-term trends in rainfall coupled with changing and increasing consumer demands	Current freshwater supply systems will continue to not meet demand both now and into the future	Critical impact on our communities i.e. lengthy water restrictions; no/interrupted supply; costly economic consequences (affordability); extensive Health & Safety impacts across the district; economic and reputational risk from a failure to supply adequate potable and fresh water; negative environmental impacts.

The “Drinking Water Resilience” risk has been analysed as both an organisational and a strategic risk. A score of 35 or greater is in the high-risk category.

To ensure clarity this risk excludes “Action for healthy waterways” new rules and regulations aimed to:

- stop further degradation of New Zealand's freshwater resources and improve water quality within 5 years
- reverse past damage and bring New Zealand's freshwater resources, waterways, and ecosystems to a healthy state within a generation.

## Existing Treatments

1. Professionally managed water source and networks.
2. Asset management planning to consider growth, expansion, development for each of our communities
3. Treated Water Supply Bylaw - this allows us to make water restrictions if and when needed.
4. Water Shortage Management Plan – this outlines the processes and provides guidance on how water restrictions can be implemented to manage demand.
5. Water Shortage Management Committee is established with internal technical specialists who monitor and make recommendations on water restrictions to GMIAM.
6. Drought Communication Plan.
7. Ability to enact a dedicated drought response team (as used in the 19/20 drought).

## High level treatment plan and progress up-date:

High level treatment plan:	Progress update:
Long Term Plan.	Planning commenced, June 2022, for assessing community needs with a focus on the next three years for LTP 2024/2034.
Crown 3-waters reform funding.	<p>The Funding Agreement and Delivery Plan included a portfolio of projects to be completed prior to June 2022. Of the 18 projects, 13 will improve resilience. The following projects have been completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaitaia new water source</li> <li>• Update water safety plans across the district</li> <li>• Network model upgrades</li> <li>• Enhanced water leak management</li> <li>• Enhanced water monitoring capability and data capture</li> <li>• Kaikohe new water source</li> </ul>
Water Safety Plans	<p>Draft Water Safety Plans (WSPs) are being reviewed and will be completed for submission to Taumata Arowai by 14 November 2022.</p> <p>The final WSPs, and the implementation plan, is underway collaboratively with FNDC staff and Far North Waters. Some implementation activities are already progressing e.g. continuous monitoring and WaterOutlook. The WSP Risk Registers and Improvement Plans have informed LTP workshops. A summary of 3 Waters issues and improvements has been prepared for the CEO. These will be workshopped with FNW before 14 November 2022.</p>

### Where are the gaps? / what more could we be doing?

The June 2021 deep dive was a rapid immersion into our drinking water resilience risk. At the session Elected Members wanted to understand resilience regarding changing conditions and operations, and how our thinking around resilience has matured. The Draft Water Safety Plans contain a risk register and improvement plan for each scheme. Consequently, this gives Council a new benchmark for the current risks and an updated understanding of what is required to manage those risk elements.

In June 2022 the Sweetwater bore project was completed with water from the bore now piped to the treatment plant. Alterations to the treatment plant and commissioning new monitoring equipment is underway to enable this source to be used.

Early and continued engagement with Taumata Arowai, to ensure all obligations are known and understood. Current topics include:

- What are Council obligations in respect of non-public schemes?
- If a private scheme starts to impact ratepayer health what is Council's responsibility?
- Drinking Water Standards have now been finalised. The Acceptable Solutions and Assurance Rules have not yet been finalised. These are expected in August 2022.

Council needs to determine what level of residual risk are we prepared to accept.

<b>Inherent Risk:</b>	<b>Trend</b>	<b>Residual Risk:</b>	<b>Accountable:</b>	CEO	<b>Date raised:</b>	March 2020	<b>Report frequency:</b>
	Stable		<b>Responsible:</b>	GM IAMs	<b>Date accepted:</b>	05/07/20	Three monthly