

Hawke's Bay Private Drinking Water Supply Project

Regional Incentive Fund

3 NOVEMBER 2021



As part of its three waters reform programme, Government has introduced new regulations for drinking water across the country.

The **Water Services Act 2021** seeks to ensure that drinking water suppliers provide safe drinking water to consumers through a new drinking water regulatory and risk management framework.

The Act requires more of councils and private drinking water suppliers.

- At least once every three years, all councils will be required to identify private water suppliers in their communities and carry out drinking assessments to determine water supply demand, safety, quality, and any potential risks.
- By 2028, all unregistered drinking water suppliers, including rural, marae, and papakainga will need to meet the new Water Services Act, drinking water standards, and rules, or be using an acceptable solution (defined in the Act).

There are also new obligations registered drinking water suppliers need to meet.

Hawke's Bay's Private Water Supply Pilot Project Objectives

The Hawke's Bay Councils (Napier City Council, Hastings District Council, Wairoa District Council, and Central Hawke's Bay District Council) want to partner with private drinking water suppliers to establish the best approach to help us all meet our new obligations under the Water Services Act.

This project provides a test platform for both council and private suppliers to develop a methodology and framework so we can meet our respective obligations going forward.

We want identify the extent of private suppliers across Hawke's Bay and work with a **sample** to:

- Better understand our communities' private drinking water suppliers, their expectations and needs
- Understand how the new regulations might be best implemented
- Develop together and trial a framework for water supply assessments
- Support our communities through a contestable fund to assist participants in this pilot project with costs associated with new regulations.



New obligations for all drinking water suppliers

- The new Water Services Act (2021) intends to ensure that drinking water suppliers provide safe drinking water, through a regulatory framework designed to improve the quality of water services in New Zealand.
- In March 2021, the government set up Taumata Arowai as a dedicated water services regulator.
- By 2025, all currently unregistered drinking water suppliers must register their supply with Taumata Arowai.
- By 2028, all currently unregistered drinking water suppliers, including rural, marae and papakainga will need to meet the Water Services Act, new drinking water standards and operational compliance rules, or be using an Acceptable Solution.
- Taumata Arowai has drafted new rules and standards including 'Acceptable Solutions', intended to provide a straightforward approach which automatically complies.
- Taumata Arowai will be consulting on their draft Acceptable Solutions, drinking water standards and operational compliance rules in early 2022 and expect to have these in place by 1 July 2022.





Funding to support Private Drinking Water Suppliers

Private drinking water suppliers can apply to Council for a 'Private Drinking Water Supplier Fund' grant.

Provided as part of the governments COVID -19 stimulus funding for three waters, the total funding available is **\$600,000** apportioned as follows:

- Wairoa District Council - \$150,000
- Napier City Council - \$150,000
- Hastings District Council \$150,000
- Central Hawke's Bay District Council \$150,000

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This grant fund is **contestable**, so success will depend on the application meeting the grant criteria, the priority of the grant purpose compared with others, and the grant money available.

Application Process

Applications open **1 December 2021** and close **30 April 2022**.

Applicants must complete the online application form and may provide any supporting documentation.

- Funding is capped at **\$10,000** per application
- All applications will be assessed and approved by the Council Group Managers of Infrastructure, and reported back monthly to the Hawke's Bay Regional Leaders Forum.
- Applicants will be notified via email as to the outcome of their application.
- All applicants must provide confirmation and evidence (eg; receipt) to Council within 6 months of the grant being made. Failure to do this could negate future council funding requests from the applicant.

The Hawke's Bay Regional Leaders Forum participants are the Mayors/Chair of the five Hawke's Bay Councils.

Exclusions

- Funding cannot be used for ongoing operations costs of a drinking water system.
- Funding cannot be used to pay Council water rates.

Funding Eligibility

- Applications will demonstrate alignment with one or more stated Hawke's Bay project objectives.
- Applications must demonstrate intent to engage with Councils and provide transparency about the performance of drinking water & associated systems.
- Applications will support the objectives of the Water Services Act 2021 for the continuous improvement of the quality of drinking water services.
- If the applicant is an individual they must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of New Zealand; if the application is from a group or organisation, the Private Drinking Water Supply must be based in the Hawke's Bay region.

Potential Fund Uses

- Water quality testing
- Water safety plan creation/updates
- Small water system equipment or upgrades
- Drinking water training courses
- Installing systems to prevent water backflow
- New water tanks
- New water source investigation
- Preparing operations and maintenance manuals and standard operating procedures



Defining a Drinking Water Supplier:

If you own or operate a water supply (that you know, or ought reasonably to know) is being used as drinking water by people outside of your own home, you are a drinking water supplier and will have responsibilities under the Water Services Act 2021.

Apply Online

For further details & grant funding applications go to:
<https://www.hb3waters.nz/hawkes-bay-stimulus-projects>