

Chlorination plans on track

Design has begun for chlorinating Blenheim's water supply.

National water regulator Taumata Arowai requires a residual disinfectant, typically provided by chlorine, to be added to water supplies by 31 December this year. That deadline won't be met, but systems should be in place by mid-2025.

Council's Planning and Development Engineer Stuart Donaldson said Taumata Arowai had reinforced the need for Blenheim's water supply to be chlorinated to ensure it met the Water Services Act and the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules.

While Blenheim's water, which delivers water to 10,700 households, is currently treated for protozoa and bacteria, there is no chlorine dosing.

Taumata Arowai has outlined that the Water Services Act 2021 requires suppliers to use a multi-barrier approach to managing

risks to protect drinking water from contamination.

Mr Donaldson said a permanent chlorination plant would be built, for which design was already underway.

Chlorine is a safe, simple and inexpensive way to disinfect drinking water, capable of killing most common bacteria including campylobacter and norovirus. It's generally used alongside other processes such as protozoa barriers which remove or inactivate single-celled parasites such as cryptosporidium and giardia. Supplies in Renwick, Picton, Havelock, Wairau Valley, Seddon and Rural Awatere are chlorinated.

Budget has been set aside in Council's Long Term Plan for chlorinating the supply.

For more information, see the frequently asked questions on Council's website at: [links.marlborough.govt.nz/Chlorination-FAQs](https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Chlorination-FAQs)



Renwick's new water treatment plant which became operational in June already supplies treated chlorinated water to all properties in urban Renwick



National water reform work ramps up

Work is underway on one of the most significant reforms faced by councils around New Zealand in recent times – Central Government's Local Water Done Well legislation.

At a recent meeting of full Council, the mayor and councillors gave approval for staff to work with neighbouring Tasman and Buller District Councils to investigate water service delivery options. This work will allow each council to make the decision on whether to combine resources into a single water entity or to go it alone as individual councils. Nelson City Council has already voted to go it alone under their existing service model.

The new water services delivery and infrastructure model replaces the previous government's Three Waters legislation and, as part of the reforms, a Water Services Delivery Plan must be provided to the Department of Internal Affairs by September next year. The plan must show a commitment to delivering water services to meet regulatory quality standards, be financially sustainable, meet drinking water quality standards and support housing growth and urban development.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said this was a significant piece of work which every council around the country was having

to deal with. "Today sets our roadmap forward but it is of course not the final decision," she said.

Local Water Done Well will be implemented in three stages each with its own piece of legislation. Plans are required for all three waters networks - water, wastewater and stormwater.

Chief Financial Officer Geoff Blake said Council had \$545,000 in existing budgets to put towards the preparatory planning work required, including \$295,000 from unspent Three Waters funding and \$240,000 relocated from Government's Better Off funding. "We will need to consult with our community on the future structure of water service delivery for Marlborough in July next year. This work will require resources and expertise," he said.

"One of the key messages we are getting is that scale brings benefits. It is yet to be proven that this would be the case for Marlborough, but it will form part of our investigation and assessment," Mr Blake said.

High level options following the scoping exercise with benefits and costs will be presented to Council's Assets and Services Committee at the end of January 2025 and regular updates on progress will be provided.

Making cycle safety more visible

Council's Multi Modal Advisor Charlotte Campbell-Lamerton ran a competition this winter for local cyclists to win a maintenance stand for their bikes.

Competitors had to submit photographs of themselves clad in high-visibility gear to promote safe cycling during the winter months.

The winners were mother and son Karen and Oscar Savage (pictured). Councillor Brian Dawson, chair of Council's Assets and Services Committee (on left) presented

the pair and husband/father Alistair (right) with their new bike stand. Alistair entered them in the competition and carries out the family's bike maintenance.

"It's great to see a family such as this taking advantage of using their bikes to get around and doing it safely. This coming summer we want to see more people out on bikes as we start to trial new cycling initiatives and high vis is always recommended to be safe and to be seen," Charlotte said.



Opening Hours

Mon to Fri: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
Closed Wed 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm
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