



25th February 2021

Mark Lewis
Services Manager
Otorohanga District Council
PO Box 11
Otorohanga 3940

Dear Mark,

Re: Recommendation of a permanent boil water notice on the Arohena Water Supply

Following the recent events which occurred at the Huirimu and Kohorekau water treatment plants, the Waikato Drinking Water Assessment Service (WaDWAS) of the Waikato District Health Board undertook a review of the treated water results of the entire Arohena water supply.

This review found that there is clear evidence to suggest that the treatment in place is not adequately treating the drinking water all of the time to a standard in ensuring protection in the health of the community. The reason being; is that there is an increased likelihood of further high turbidity events (dirty water) which even with chlorination in place; may pose undue risk to consumers.

WaDWAS are concerned that the residents of the Arohena community do not have an ongoing level of protection against the bacterial or protozoan risk. Therefore, WaDWAS advocates for an ongoing boil water notice across the entire Arohena supply until such time that the supply can demonstrate safe drinking water and mechanisms in place to prevent turbidity spikes and potential contamination. This recommendation follows discussion between WaDWAS and the Designated Officer Medical Officer of Health Dr Richard Vipond.

We are aware that there are plans in place to upgrade the Arohena water supply, though until such time that the treated water meets the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand 2005 (revised 2018), and the risks are demonstrated to be adequately managed, it is deemed important for Otorohanga District Council to implement a permanent boil water notice on the Arohena water supply. This includes all treatment plants that encompass this supply.

WaDWAS have not had any notifications of illness reported from consumption of the Arohena drinking water to date. However, this recommendation is a precautionary move in illness prevention.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned to answer any questions/queries.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Palmer
Health Protection Officer/Drinking Water Assessor
Waikato Drinking Water Assessment Service

Copy to:	Tanya Winter Chief Executive Officer Otorohanga District Council	Roger Brady Group Manager Engineering Otorohanga District Council
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