

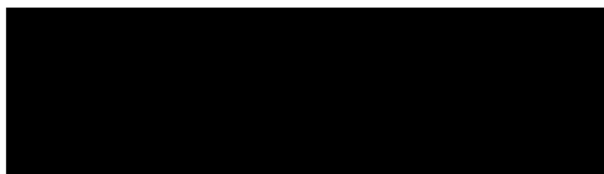


Ref: [REDACTED]

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29 January 2025

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST – WATER QUALITY TESTING

I refer to your official information request dated 12 January 2025 'LGOIMA' regarding the water quality testing of the Nelson drinking water, which is reproduced below:

"...I refer to your answers to my first request for information dated Dec 9th on Jan 9th 2025:

.Council tests the water supply for different parameters either continuously, daily, weekly or annually depending on the feature.

- what do you test continuously for?*
- what do you test daily for?*
- what do you test weekly for?*
- what do you test monthly for?*
- what do you test annually for?*

- how quickly are you acting if any of the parameters are out? That is, once tested and results are with you, how much time are you allowed to let pass before acting?*

- Council tests for turbidity, hardness, alkalinity, taste and odour, pH, chlorine, fluoride, e-coli and total coliforms and a range of chemicals.*

- for each of the above parameters, how often are they tested for?.."*

In response to your queries I confirm the following:

- Council tests the water supply continuously for chlorine, fluoride, pH, turbidity, conductivity and ultraviolet absorbance.
- Council tests the water supply daily for pH, colour, temperature, turbidity, manganese, iron and fluoride. Testing is also carried out for Aluminium, Antimony, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Manganese, Mercury, Nickel, Bromate, Chlorate, Epichlorohydrin, Acrylamide when the treatment plant uses coagulant in the treatment process.
- Council tests the water supply weekly for e-coli, total coliforms, fluoride, chlorine, pH, turbidity and temperature.

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- Council tests the water supply monthly for haloacetic acid's, trihalomethanes (disinfection byproducts), taste and odour, chlorate, bromate, iron and manganese.
- Council tests the water supply quarterly for antimony, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel and zinc.
- Council tests the water supply annually for wide range of chemicals as well as alkalinity and hardness – please see the NCC website for water quality test results for 2024 or use the following link: <https://www.nelson.govt.nz/services/water-and-wastewater/water-supply-2/water-quality/>
- Maximum acceptable values for microbiological, inorganic, organic and radiological determinands are set by government regulation. Council's response to changes in test results depends upon the nature of the test result eg any exceedances of e-coli results will lead to an immediate response by Council. Changes against the other determinands are measured against the maximum acceptable values and an appropriate response is initiated.
- The type of tests required and the test timeframes are set by the national regulator Taumata Arowai. Please refer to their website or use the following link for details of these: <https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/for-water-suppliers/new-compliance-rules-and-standards/> All test results from independent labs are supplied to Taumata Arowai by the testing agency.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Alec Louverdis
Deputy Chief Executive / Group Manager Infrastructure