

4 August 2026

Nelson City Council
P O Box 645
NELSON

Attention:
Roshan Babu

Review of Nelson City Councils water supply performance against the Water Services (Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand) Regulations 2022 and the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules 2022 [DWQAR], for the period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

I refer to the independent assessment of performance of water supplies against the Water Services (Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand) Regulations 2022 and the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules 2022 (revised 2024) [DWQAR], for the period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026. The assessments were undertaken by Matt Molloy, an independent drinking water compliance specialist.

The assessment parameters have been defined by the Department of Internal Affairs and Audit New Zealand (DIA/AuditNZ). In June 2025 DIA/AuditNZ provided clarification on the expected assessment and reporting methodology that is to be used for the 2024/25 audits, this has been used for the 2025/26 audit. This is based on the Water Services Authority process using an aggregate compliance rate methodology. Additional guidance was provided on what was expected to be assessed to meet drinking water performance measures.

Nelson City Council (NCC) has the following drinking water performance measures.

- Performance measure 1 -safety of drinking water and the extent to which the Council drinking water supply complies with the relevant parts of the DWQAR
- NCC has the additional KPI -The extent to which drinking water supply complies with:
 - a) Table 1 of the drinking water standards (Maximum acceptable values for microbiological determinands)
 - b) Table 2 of the drinking water standards (Maximum acceptable values for inorganic determinands)
 - c) Table 3 of the drinking water standards (Maximum acceptable values for organic determinands).

The assessment covered the Tantragee water treatment plant and the Nelson distribution zone. A brief report describing the process and results for the DWQAR assessment is attached to this letter.

Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules 2022 (revised 2024)

The outcome for each treatment plant and distribution zone is summarised in the table below. This is for the period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026. Bacterial and protozoa compliance at the treatment plant is assessed each day, the distribution zone is assessed each month.

Water supply	Treatment plant		Distribution zone
	Bacterial	Protozoa	Microbiological
Nelson (NEL001)	All met 100%	All met 100%	All met 100%

Water Services (Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand) Regulations 2022

Based on all the samples taken from 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026, NCC meets the performance measure as outlined below;

- Table 1 of the drinking water standards (Maximum acceptable values for microbiological determinands) = 100% all met.
- Table 2 of the drinking water standards (Maximum acceptable values for inorganic determinands) = 100% all met.
- Table 3 of the drinking water standards (Maximum acceptable values for organic determinands) = 99.1% almost met*.

**Note that 3/336 samples were above the MAV for Dichloroacetic Acid, however the exceedances were within the margins of error for the analytical test. The issue was promptly identified and rectified with all follow up samples well below the MAV. This was a marginal exceedance with no material health risk being posed by the results. This would be considered a very minor technical exceedance.*

Overall compliance with the additional performance measure is 99.7%, almost met.

The Nelson water supply has fully met performance measure 1-drinking water safety and almost met performance measure -maximum acceptable values in the drinking water standards.

A copy of the letter and report have been directly sent to AuditNZ at their request. If you have any questions or queries, please contact the undersigned.

Kind regards



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