

Policy – Raw Water Policy

Policy

Southern Rural Water (SRW) is defined as a water storage manager under the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* and *Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2025*. SRW is committed to our obligations under the legislation including, but not limited to;

- Implementing, maintaining and continually reviewing safe drinking water risk management plans for each of SRW's storages that provide raw water to water suppliers, and implement actions to mitigate the risks identified within those plans.
 - Engaging regularly with stakeholders from the catchment and water suppliers to promote a coordinated approach to managing risks to drinking water.
 - Reporting any identified or suspected issues with raw water quality to stakeholders via the required notification processes
 - Maintaining effective contingency and incident response procedures consistent with SRWs emergency management framework.
 - Providing training and support for all SRW staff involved in the supply and management of raw water, including identification of water quality incidents, notification protocols and sampling regimes and requirements.
-

Definitions

Water storage manager – as defined by the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003*

Reporting

- SRW will prepare a Water Storage Managers Annual Report in accordance with the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* and associated Regulations. This report will be given to the Department of Health and made publicly available on SRW's external website in accordance with the Guidance Note issued by the Department of Health.
 - SRWs risk management plans will be externally audited against the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* and associated Regulations when requested by the Department of Health
 - In the case of a non-compliance or breach of requirements under the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003*, identified through statutory auditing or through SRWs actions, the Managing Director will be immediately notified and will report to the Board.
 - In the case of known or suspected contamination of a drinking water storage, SRW will notify the Department of Health in accordance with the requirements of Section 22 of the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003*.
-

Effective date and review date

This policy is endorsed by SRW's Board of Directors and takes effect on 17 September 2025.

It is due for review by 7 October 2028.

Who is affected

This Policy applies principally to staff involved in the operation, maintenance and management of SRW's drinking water storages and associated risk management plans. However, the Policy applies to and should also be understood by SRWs relevant general managers (Asset Futures and Strategy, People and Culture), and contractors conducting works on behalf of SRW at drinking water storages.

Rationale

SRW is defined as a water storage manager under the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003*. It supplies raw water to water suppliers from five of its major storages; Lake Glenmaggie, Blue Rock Lake, Pykes Creek Reservoir, Merrimu Reservoir and Rosslynne Reservoir. SRW maintains safe drinking water risk management plans for each of the storages, as required by the Act and associated the *Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2025*.

This Policy demonstrates SRWs commitment to its role as a water storage manager as defined by the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* the *Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2025*.

Contact

For more information contact the Manager Environment & Climate Adaptation.

Related documents

Safe Drinking Water Management Plan (*including Risk Management Plans for the eastern storages Lake Glenmaggie and Blue Rock Lake, and the western storages Pykes Creek, Merrimu Reservoir and Rosslynne Reservoir*).

Communications

This policy will be made available on SRW's external website and internal intranet .
