

# National Water Code of Practice Overview

Work is underway to develop a clear technical National Three Waters Code of Practice for drinking, storm, and wastewater across Aotearoa New Zealand.

There are currently 45 different codes of practice providing information on how to design and construct three waters infrastructure. Three waters reform gives us the opportunity to develop a single technical code to better deliver water infrastructure to our communities. It is also an opportunity to embed the key principles of Te Mana o te Wai (the health and wellbeing of water) and Te Tiriti o Waitangi into the new National Code of Practice. The initial national code will essentially 'lift and shift' using the best of the current codes to create a new consistent national code, while also recognising the need for regional variations.

## The need for the National Code of Practice

The sector has been calling for a national code for water for years. Having different codes is an ongoing frustration for many and doesn't support an efficient sector.

Over time the code can be further developed to improve water infrastructure, create supply chain efficiencies and to include new approaches and technologies to enable sustainable growth, and better meet the health and well-being needs our people and communities.

Most New Zealanders agree our water services need significant investment which is an ongoing challenge to deliver and fund. A consistent National Water Code will improve water delivery significantly.

## Who's involved in its development?

Representatives across the New Zealand sector, including technical experts from within councils and their water entities, representatives from Civil Contractors NZ, Association of Consulting Engineers, Land Development Engineering (IPWEA), and iwi advisors are involved in developing the Code.

The National Transition Unit is involving key partners including Water NZ and Taumata Arowai and working to ensure the wider sector, including regional councils, FENZ, utility bodies, infrastructure organisations and providers, the developer community, suppliers, training providers and health and safety organisations are aware of the Code and are consulted.

## Project timeline

The first phase of the project runs from October 2022 to the end of 2023. We're aiming for 50% completion at the end of March, and 80% completion by the end of July. Draft public consultation will be held in November 2023. The Code is expected to be ready in time for when the new Water Service Entities become operational on 1 July 2024.

### Phase One

