Drinking Water Assessment

June 2026

Next review: Due by 1 July 2029

HAURAKI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

PART A – CONTEXT

Introduction

Through Section 69 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025, a drinking water assessment must be completed by 1 July 2026[1] and a Council must inform itself about the access that each community in its district has to drinking water services by identifying each community that receives a drinking water service; the nature of these services, foreseeable risks in the future, current and estimated future demands, and the safety and quality of drinking water available.

Hauraki District Council last completed a drinking water assessment in 2015, which formed part of a broader Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services.

Since 2015, the Government has introduced the Local Water Done Well reform programme, alongside significant legislative and regulatory changes across the three waters sector. These changes include increased regulatory oversight, new drinking water quality standards, the establishment of Taumata Arowai, strengthened compliance and reporting requirements, and new expectations regarding the long-term delivery, governance, and financial sustainability of water services.

As a result of these legislative changes, Council is currently progressing through the transition to Waikato Waters Ltd[2], which will fundamentally change the future delivery model for drinking water services within the district through a co-designed proposed model for the delivery of water services.

To determine whether public health is and will continue to be adequately protected, this Assessment draws on inputs from a variety of statutory sources as well as measures that have been developed at the District level, such as through the Triennial Residents' Satisfaction Survey, the Water Services Delivery Plan, Water Safety Plans, Water Demand Management Plans, Asset Management Plans and data from the drinking water regulator Taumata Arowai.

This report details the results and findings of the Drinking Water Assessment through three parts:

- Part A provides the general approach that has been followed in undertaking the Assessment.
- Part B sets out the assessment of each service area against the requirements of the Water Services Act including:

[1] The Assessment is part of the group of documents which form part of the supporting information to the Long-Term Plan 2027-37.

[2] https://www.waikatowaters.co.nz/

    - Identifying each community, and the nature and characteristics of existing drinking water services to the community.
    - Assess the extent to which the community is currently receiving and will continue to receive a sufficient quality of drinking water, taking into account the existing access to drinking water services and any reasonably foreseeable risks, and the current and estimated future demands,
    - The safety and quality of the drinking water currently being supplied to the community using information collected and made available by the Water Services Authority
    - Identify and assess public health risks
    - Identify and assess the consequences if the community loses access to drinking water services in the future
    - Outline a plan to provide for the community's ongoing access to drinking water services
- Part C provides a summary of the key findings.

Assessment Approach

Council does not have responsibility for all areas or aspects of water service provision. The Council is not responsible for the performance of individuals operating their own domestic supplies such as rainwater tanks. Nevertheless, the performance of such facilities can have effects on the wider environment and community perceptions. Therefore, although the Council is not directly responsible, and the assessment has a specific focus on public health matters, it must consider whether there is a need for any specific action, such as education, to ensure that the community's health is protected. While the Assessment does not describe the performance of private service provision, it does describe the issues associated with private services and explains the Council's actions in relation to matters that are beyond its immediate control.

For completeness, this assessment needs to be read in conjunction with other documentation particularly that of the Water Service Delivery Plan, and the foundational documents to the Long-term Plan. These Council documents have a specific purpose, and they are the appropriate place to set out the detailed description and analysis of Council serviced areas. Consequently, this Assessment provides a broad overview of each of the Council service areas rather than a detailed description.

Strategic context

Waikato Waters

Following public consultation[3], each of the Waikato Water Done Well (WWDW) councils have adopted the WWDW service delivery model and established the multi-council owned limited liability company, Waikato Waters Ltd (Waikato Waters)(WWL), for the purpose of providing drinking water and wastewater services across their respective service area.

To manage the risk of multiple council businesses coming together in Waikato Waters, the WWDW councils agreed that they will transfer their respective water services business into Waikato Waters in a staggered manner over a 12-month period from 1 July 2026 to 1 July 2027. Although transfer will be staged, the framework for transferring will be consistent as each WWDW council has committed via the Shareholders Agreement to:

a) entering into a template transfer agreement with Waikato Waters within an agreed timeframe before a council is due to transfer its business to Waikato Waters.

b) completing that agreement in accordance with set transfer principles.

c) transferring its business into Waikato Waters on a stipulated date.

WWL will be governed by an independent Board of Directors who will provide governance oversight in relation to the implementation of a detailed establishment plan and adherence to shareholding council obligations to ensure the financially sustainable position is safeguarded.

Hauraki District Council has resolved to substantively transfer its business to Waikato Waters on 1 July 2027.

Waihou, Piako and Coromandel Catchment Authority

Treaty settlements within the Waihou and Piako catchments establish co-governance arrangements through the Waihou, Piako and Coromandel Catchment Authority (previously the Waihou-Piako River Authority). While the Authority does not own or operate drinking water infrastructure, it provides strategic oversight of catchment management and freshwater health, requiring councils and water service providers to consider iwi values, community aspirations, and integrated waterway management when planning for and protecting drinking water sources.

[3] Hauraki District Council Water Services Delivery Plan https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2jpo4nuxg17q9srdjc4b/hierarchy/Plans-Strategies/Water-Services-Delivery-Plan-2025.pdf

Demographic forecast

As part of preparing its 2027-37 Long-term Plan, the Council, with Infometrics, has undertaken analysis of the results of the 2023 Census and has prepared population projections which extend out to 2057, as actions to be taken over the next 10-30 year period need to be mindful of these longer-term patterns of change.

In general terms, the estimated resident population at 2026 (22,400) is larger than in 2015 (18,600), the last time a Drinking Water Assessment was prepared.

Hauraki's population growth has been strong, in the past decade, with a peak of 2.5% annual growth in 2017 and 2018, easing to 0.5% annual growth in 2025[4]. The total population grew by 0.7% annually in New Zealand over the same period.

Under the high projections scenario Hauraki's population is projected to grow from 22,400 in 2026 to 24,500 in 2037, an average of 190 people per annum. It is projected to reach 25,700 in 2057, an average of 60 people per annum over the twenty-year period.

The water network supplies potable water for drinking and other uses to approx. 7,755 properties (67% of rating units) and to 73% (16,681) of the Hauraki district population (as at 1 July 2024)[5]. The future population serviced by water is estimated to be 23,209 by 2054 (approximately 90%).

The 65-years-and-older age group has been Hauraki's fastest growing, making up 22% of the population in 2013 and 26% in 2023. It is expected to continue to be the fastest growing age group, projected to grow from 27% of the population in 2027 to 31% in 2057.

The average household size (number of people living in a house) is projected to remain around 2.4 people.

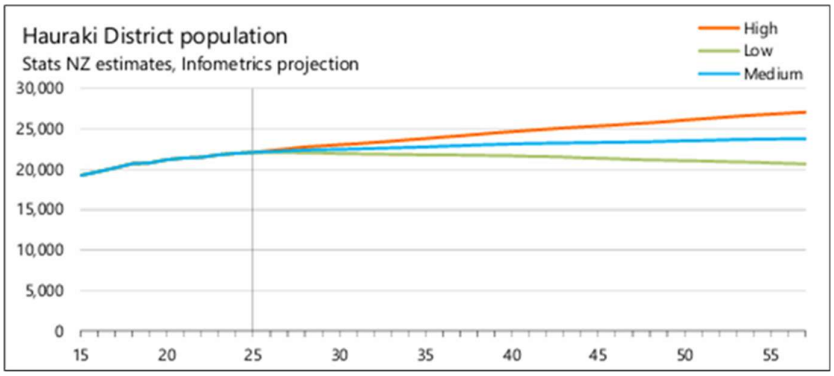


Figure 1: Hauraki District estimated population (2025)

[4] 2027 LTP staff briefing paper. Demographic Projections. Doc # 4055195
[5] Hauraki District Council Water Services Delivery Plan https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2jpo4nuxg17q9srdjc4b/hierarchy/Plans-Strategies/Water-Services-Delivery-Plan-2025.pdf

As of 2025, there are estimated to be 9,966 dwellings in the District. Under the high scenario, this is projected to grow strongly to 10,900 in 2037 (average 78 dwellings per annum), followed by slower growth to 11,900 in 2057 (average 50 dwellings per annum). The pattern of dwelling growth generally follows population trends with the majority of growth taking place in Paeroa and Waihī, and as of 2025, there are 11,788 rating units in Hauraki District. Rating units are projected to grow to 12,800 in 2037 (average 84 rating units per annum) and further to 13,800 in 2057 (average 50 rating units per annum).

The pattern of development is important in considering requirements for the maintenance and renewal of existing water services, whether public or private, and the provision of additional facilities. The sub-district population, in table 1, demonstrates that growth is expected to be centred in the three main towns of Paeroa, Waihī, and Ngātea, with additional growth in the smaller settlements of Turūa, and Kerepēhi.

Hauraki sub-district population projections – high scenario

	Population			Annual average growth	
SA2 area	2025	2037	2057	2025-2037	2037-2057
Miranda-Pūkorokoro	994	986	1,020	-0.1%	0.2%
Hauraki Plains North	1,323	1,348	1,385	0.2%	0.1%
Hauraki Plains East	1,504	1,584	1,697	0.4%	0.3%
Ngatea	1,589	1,628	1,825	0.2%	0.6%
Hauraki Plains South	1,624	1,707	1,855	0.4%	0.4%
Paeroa Rural	2,066	2,132	2,221	0.3%	0.2%
Paeroa	4,593	5,484	6,601	1.5%	0.9%
Waihī Rural	2,527	2,582	2,608	0.2%	0.1%
Waihī	5,879	6,719	7,883	1.1%	0.8%
Hauraki District	**22,099**	**24,170**	**27,095**	**0.7%**	**0.6%**

Table 1: Hauraki sub-district population projections

Climate change projections

While there is uncertainty about how much our climate will warm, we do know that rising sea levels and more severe weather events will have ongoing implications for our services, infrastructure and communities. Climate change projections for the Hauraki District include[6]:

By 2090 we are projecting:

- to have an extra 29 to 91 'hot days' per year where temperatures exceed 25 ˚C.
- for the number of frosts to decrease by 5 to 10 days per year.

[6] LTP Staff Briefing paper Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Projections. Doc #4033312

- the total annual rainfall volume will not increase, but the number of heavy rainfall events (99th percentile) will increase by 10-11%.
- the frequency of extremely windy days will decrease by 1-20 days in the west of the district (the Plains) while there is no change for Waihī.
- periods of high rainfall will increase the risk of flooding which can have short term effects on water quality and its suitability for supply.

What does this mean for water services?

In broad terms, the likely changes mean:

- An increasingly aged population will change dwelling requirements and will have a lower volume demand for services (e.g. less demand for 2nd bathrooms, or irrigation of large garden areas).
- Future water abstraction consents may need to seek an increase in abstraction volumes, however these are expected to not be significant.
- Lower summer rainfall is expected to coincide with increased visitor numbers during periods of highest demand.
- More frequent droughts are likely to lead to water shortages and increased risk of wildfires. Prolonged droughts may result in restrictive consent conditions for water takes from streams and waterways. Our communities may have more water restrictions placed on them.
- More heavy rainfall will increase the risk of flooding. Flood gates may not open long enough to drain the land adequately. More frequent storm surges may require stopbanks to be raised. There is a potential long term saltwater intrusion risk at water intakes e.g. the Kerepēhi Water Treatment Plant.
- Alongside these trends, existing key services such as water treatment facilities are regulated through consents. The regulatory framework which will apply to these applications has undergone significant review since the consents were originally granted, and new, higher standards will apply to the renewal of existing consents or proposals for new facilities.
- The establishment of the Waihou, Piako and Coromandel Catchment is likely to influence the strategic planning environment within which water services are delivered. Water service providers will need to work collaboratively with iwi and other stakeholders to support catchment health, source water protection, cultural values, and long-term freshwater outcomes. This may influence future infrastructure planning, resource consenting requirements, and investment priorities relating to water services.

PART B – SERVICE ASSESSMENTS

The following assessment of each service area addresses, where relevant, each of the five matters set out in Section 126 of the LGA:

- *the health risks to communities arising from any absence of, or deficiency in, water or other sanitary services;*
- *the quality of services currently available to communities;*
- *current and estimated future demands;*
- *the extent to which drinking water meets applicable regulatory standards; and*
- *the actual or potential consequences of stormwater or sewage discharges within the district.*

Communities of interest

2015 Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services communities of interest

The 2015 Assessment identified 10 "communities" exhibiting similar characteristics in terms of public health concerns. The communities that were identified and considered included Council Water Supply Networks, Marae, Schools and Camp facilities, Hospitality Industry, Sports facilities, Halls and Churches, Whiritoa Urban Non-serviced, Plains Non-serviced (including Kaiaua) and Rural Non-serviced.

The 2014 Assessment concluded that, in broad terms, the District's water supplies would adequately protect public health.

2026 Drinking Water Assessment communities of interest

The communities of interest that have been determined for the 2026 assessment are more aligned with the public register of drinking water supplies through the regulator, the Water Services Authority, Taumata Arowai.[7] For Hauraki District this includes:

- Networked Supply
- Private community drinking water suppliers, further categorised into:
    - Self-supplied buildings, including:
        - Marae
        - Community halls
    - Community drinking water stations
- Water carrier suppliers

It is of note, that section 69 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act, 2025, has amended the definition of communities, and those departments managed by defined public service agencies are not required to be assessed, therefore tramping huts,

[7] Public Register of Drinking Water Supplies · Hinekōrako

managed by the Department of Conservation have not been included in this assessment, as they were in 2015.

Water Supply Overview

The legislative and regulatory context for the assessment and delivery of water services has changed significantly since the previous assessment was undertaken in 2015. Changes across the water sector have included strengthened drinking water regulation, increased public health requirements, enhanced monitoring and compliance obligations, and new expectations regarding the long-term sustainability, resilience and financial management of water services. These changes have required Council to review its long-term approach to water service delivery and consider how services can continue to be provided in a sustainable, safe and efficient manner.

Historically, Council's approach has focused on maintaining and improving water infrastructure to ensure communities have access to safe and reliable drinking water supplies while protecting public health outcomes. This has included ongoing investment in infrastructure and consideration of opportunities to improve efficiency, resilience and service delivery over time.

While Council's water supply network provides reliable services to the majority of the district, service levels vary across communities. Some areas continue to be serviced by networks that do not provide an on-demand supply, while some communities rely on private or self-supplied water sources. Communities relying on self-supplied systems or non-on-demand networks can face increased risks associated with supply reliability, water quality management, and potential contamination arising from inadequate storage, treatment, or maintenance practices. These matters are relevant considerations in assessing current and future access to drinking water services across the district.

Council supplies

Council is responsible for providing safe and reliable drinking water services to domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural communities across the district.

Council owns and operates the districts public water supply networks and provides public water supplies for drinking water and firefighting purposes to the communities of Ngātea, Kerepēhi, Tūrua, Paeroa, Waikino and Waihī. Water is sourced through abstractions from surface water bodies and treated through Council's water supply infrastructure network.

The network includes four water treatment plants and approximately 593 km of water supply mains. Water is stored within strategically located reservoirs and storage facilities that support system resilience, operational management, maintenance activities and the provision of appropriate treatment processes. All connected properties are individually metered for water use monitoring and management. A significant proportion of treated water demand is associated with rural users, with approximately 65% of treated water consumption attributable to agricultural use. This use primarily supports agricultural activities and stock water requirements and does not include irrigation use.

Most of the water supply network is past midway of their asset life. HDC has complete records of the pipe material types and age, and less complete records for asset condition. 70% of water supply assets are in a satisfactory condition. The oldest pipes are concrete, asbestos cement, alkathene and ferric pipes, there are also legacy cast iron pipes. This is indicative of the problematic pipe materials that are known to fail and need to be replaced in the short to medium term. HDC has dedicated renewal projects programmed to work through the replacement of the Drinking Water concrete pipes and cast iron pipes each year until complete.

The average residential water consumption per capita in recent years has ranged between 179 and 189 litres/person/day between 2019/20 and 2022/23. This measure is calculated with a random sample of residential properties in the district. Better understanding of water demand by customer segment is identified as a future operational improvement project, as part of improving customer levels of service activity outcomes. This is currently of lower priority due to being well within industry standard)[8].

[8] Hauraki District Council Water Services Delivery Plan https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2jpo4nuxg17q9srdjc4b/hierarchy/Plans-Strategies/Water-Services-Delivery-Plan-2025.pdf

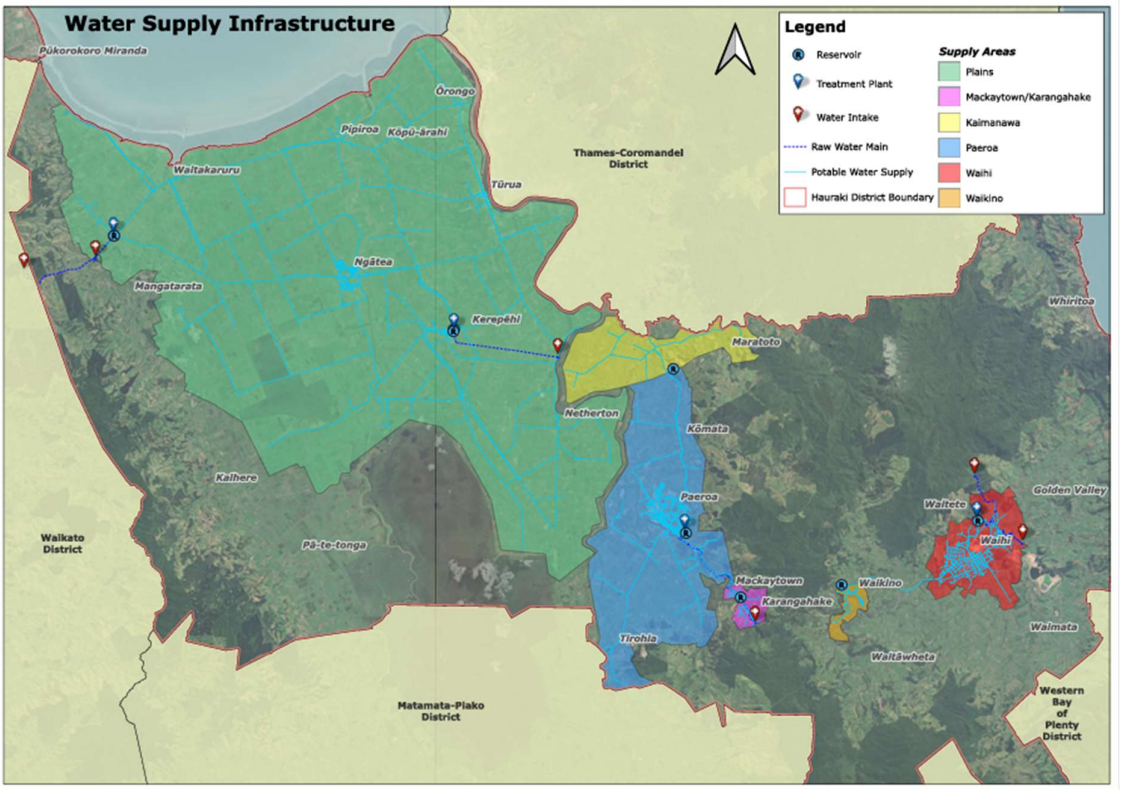


Figure 2: Map of District's public water supply systems (2024)

In brief, the networks supply approximately 8,000 properties and comprise ground or surface water intakes or bores, treatment facilities and extensive reticulation networks, each of which is regulated by consents granted under the terms of the Waikato Regional Plan. Three residential areas schemes supply the Plains Ward (2,711 connections), the Paeroa Ward (2,587 connections) and the Waihī Ward (2,966 connections)[9]. Within each Ward, the additional non-residential connections are 125 connections in the Plains ward, 233 connections in the Paeroa Ward and 180 connections in the Waihī Ward.

While the public network services the majority of the district, approximately 3,800 properties rely on private water supplies, including private bores, surface water takes and roof water collection systems. Communities including Kaiaua, Miranda, Mangatārata, Patetonga and Whiritoa do not receive reticulated water services and rely on self-supplied water sources.

Planning

The serviced area is supported by three Water Management Plans - Hauraki Plans, Paeroa and Waihī - which are provided to Waikato Regional Council and are reviewed

[9] Hauraki District Council Water Services Delivery Plan https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2jpo4nuxg17q9srdjc4b/hierarchy/Plans-Strategies/Water-Services-Delivery-Plan-2025.pdf

every three years. The most recent review was 2023 for Hauraki Plains and 2025 for Paeroa and 2026 for Waihī.

Water Safety Plans have been prepared for the Kerepēhi, Paeroa, Waihi and Waitakaruru water treatment plants.[10]

Consent status

Water treatment plants	2024/25 Audit Status	Consent Comments
Kerepēhi	Moderate non-compliance	Received moderate non-compliance for breaching annual abstraction volume. This consent is necessary to ensure we are able to abstract water.
Paeroa	Low-Risk non-compliance	Low risk non-compliance
Waihī	Moderate non-compliance	Received moderate non-compliance for breaching annual abstraction volume
Waitakaruru	Not audited	Low risk - not audited. This consent is necessary to ensure we are able to abstract water.[11]

Current as at 16 April 2026.

Current and future demand

In Waihī, Waikino, Paeroa, Karangahake and Mackaytown water supply is 'on-demand', and users can expect water to be continuously available at a reasonable pressure.

In the Plains, Ōhinemuri and Kaimanawa areas water supply is not 'on demand'. The Council undertakes to provide for water requirements over 24 hours, and users may be required to provide on-site storage to cover daily periods of high demand.

[10] Water Safety Plans for the following water treatment plants: Kerepēhi doc #3307169, Paeroa doc #3307176, Waihi doc #3307178, Waitakaruru doc # 3307181

[11] To provide clarity, although were recorded as moderate non-compliances, these non-compliances were regarded as technical e.g. power outages. Based on this the risk to our drinking water supply was low, with health-based limits maintained and appropriate operational responses implemented in line with Water Safety Plans.

Hauraki Plains[12]

Minimal growth in overall treated water demand is projected across the Hauraki Plains Water Supply Scheme over the coming decades. While the population is projected to increase to approximately 6,257 by 2035 before reducing slightly to approximately 5,904 by 2050, average and total water demand is expected to remain relatively stable. Existing treatment capacity of 19,000 m^3/day and treated water storage of 11,000 m^3 are not projected to change.

Despite limited growth in demand, the scheme is currently experiencing capacity and resilience constraints. The network struggles to maintain acceptable levels of service during low-rainfall periods, primarily due to limited raw water storage capacity. In particular, the Kerepēhi Water Treatment Plant operates at or near capacity during higher demand periods between October and April.

Council has been investigating options to improve the long-term security and resilience of supply, including increasing consented water take volumes, identifying additional water sources, increasing treatment capacity, and developing network interconnections. An interconnecting pipeline between the Hauraki Plains and Paeroa networks has also been initially investigated with the purposes of improving resilience and providing greater operational flexibility in the event of supply disruptions or treatment plant outages.

No significant changes to rural water demand are expected in the foreseeable future. While dairy cow numbers have generally stabilised or declined slightly, climate change introduces some uncertainty, as warmer and drier conditions may increase water requirements for stock. Overall, these factors are expected to result in little net change in rural demand across the scheme.

Paeroa[13]

Demand forecasts indicate that under a high growth scenario, the current consented abstraction limit of 6,867 m^3/day may be exceeded by approximately 2048. Under a medium growth scenario, the existing consented abstraction is expected to remain sufficient for at least the next 30 years.

Based on current projections, Council's short to medium-term strategy is to continue utilising the existing Waitāwheta River source while improving understanding of network performance and demand patterns. Key initiatives include enhanced metering, ongoing leakage monitoring, water balance analysis, night-flow monitoring and the

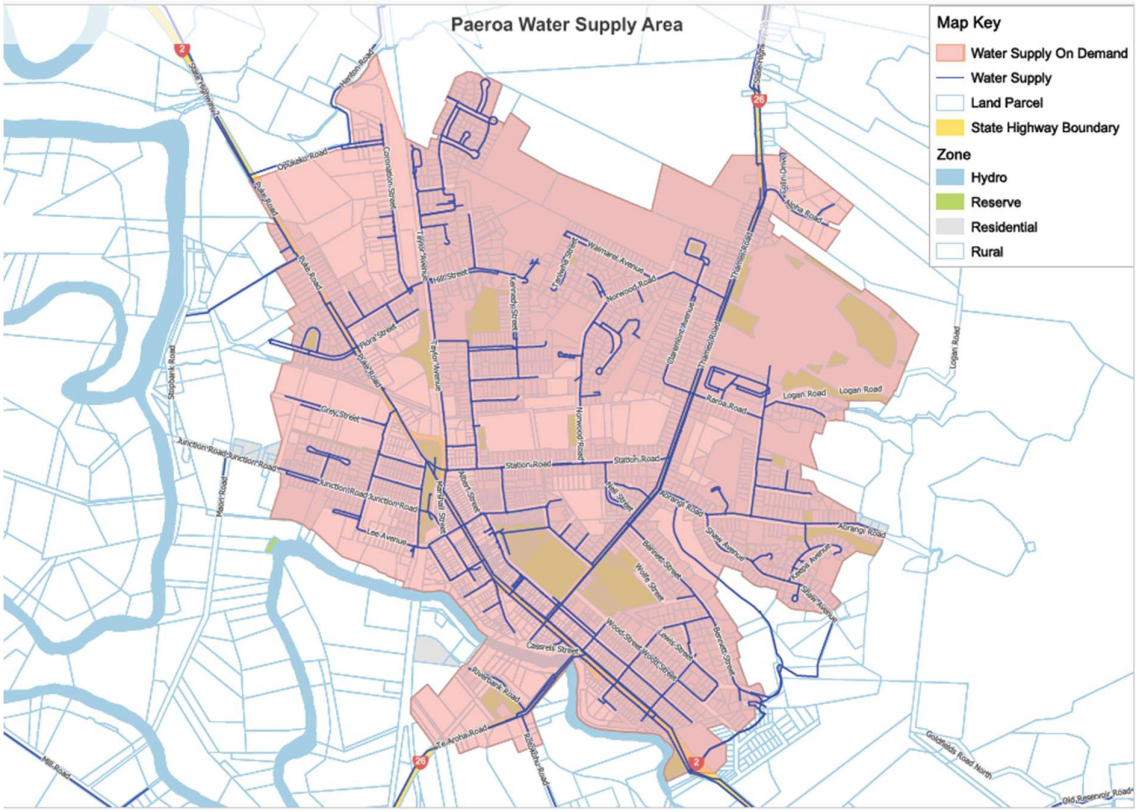
[12] Water Demand Management Plans for Plains doc #3506069, Paeroa doc #3792825, Waihi doc #3792821

[13] Water Demand Management Plans for Paeroa doc #3792825,

implementation of pressure management measures where appropriate. A key focus will be reducing non-revenue water and improving network efficiency.

Population growth assumptions indicate limited growth in rural agricultural demand, with forecast demand increases primarily associated with urban growth. Council will continue implementing demand management measures, including targeting residential water use efficiency of approximately 250 litres per person per day.

At present, a secondary water source is not anticipated to be required within the next 15–20 years. However, should demand continue to track the high-growth scenario. Investigation may be needed on additional water sources to supplement the existing Waitāwheta River take and maintain long-term security of supply.



Waihi[14]

Demand forecasts for the Waihī and Waikino water supply area have been developed using both high and medium population growth scenarios. Forecast assumptions indicate that future growth is expected to be predominantly residential in nature, with gross per capita water consumption remaining relatively stable. An allowance has also been included for modest increases in non-residential demand over the next 30 years.

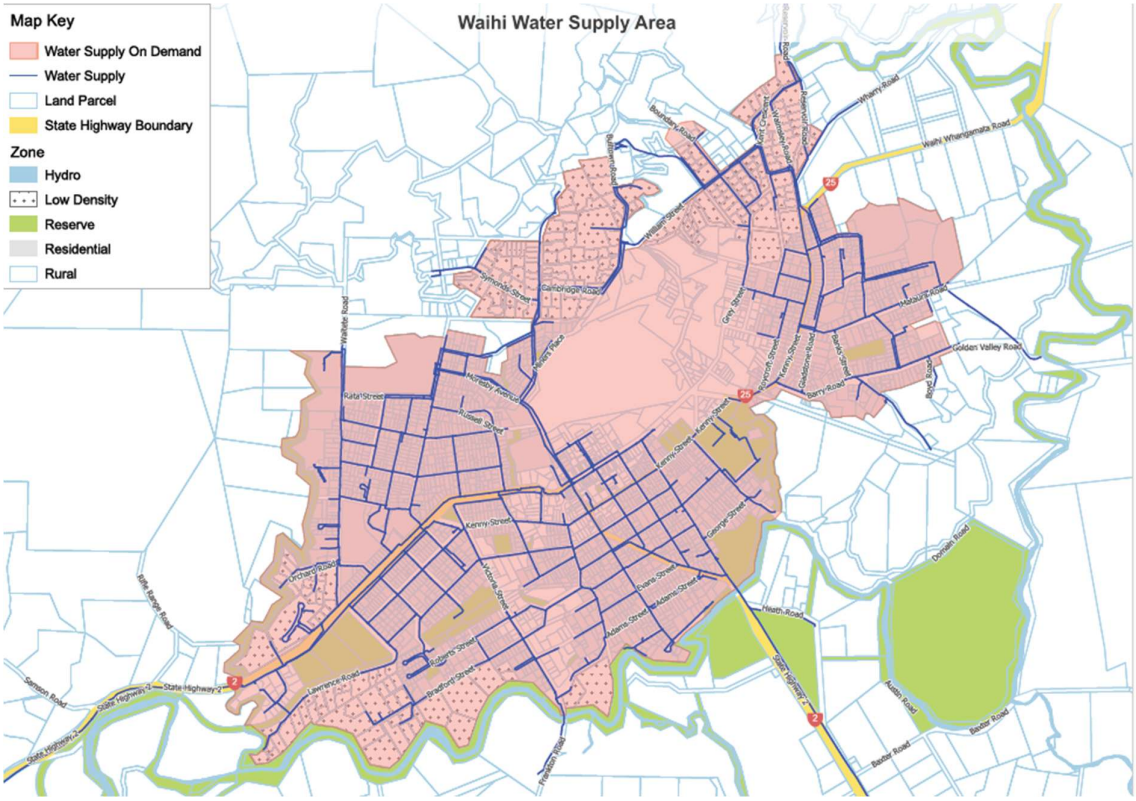
[14] Water Demand Management Plans for Waihi doc #3792821

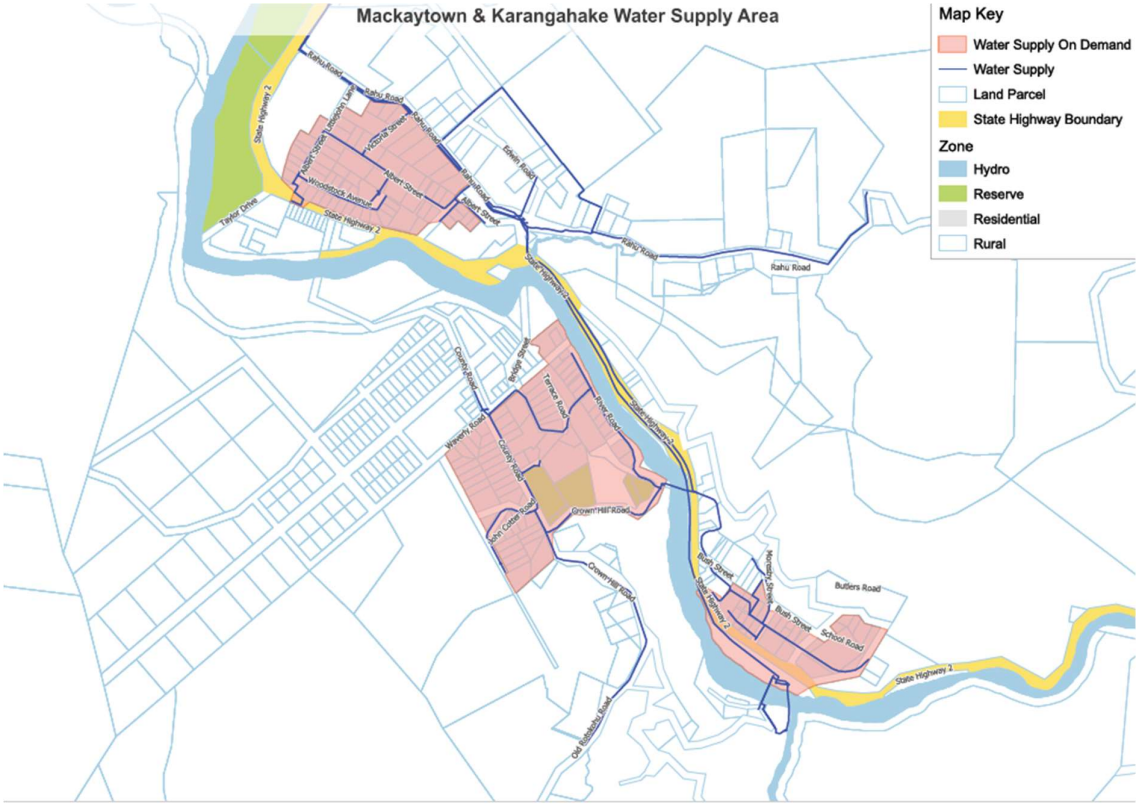
Demand projections indicate that under a high growth scenario, the current consented abstraction limit of 4,300 m^3/day may be exceeded by approximately 2039. Under a medium growth scenario, the existing abstraction limit is expected to remain sufficient for at least the next 30 years.

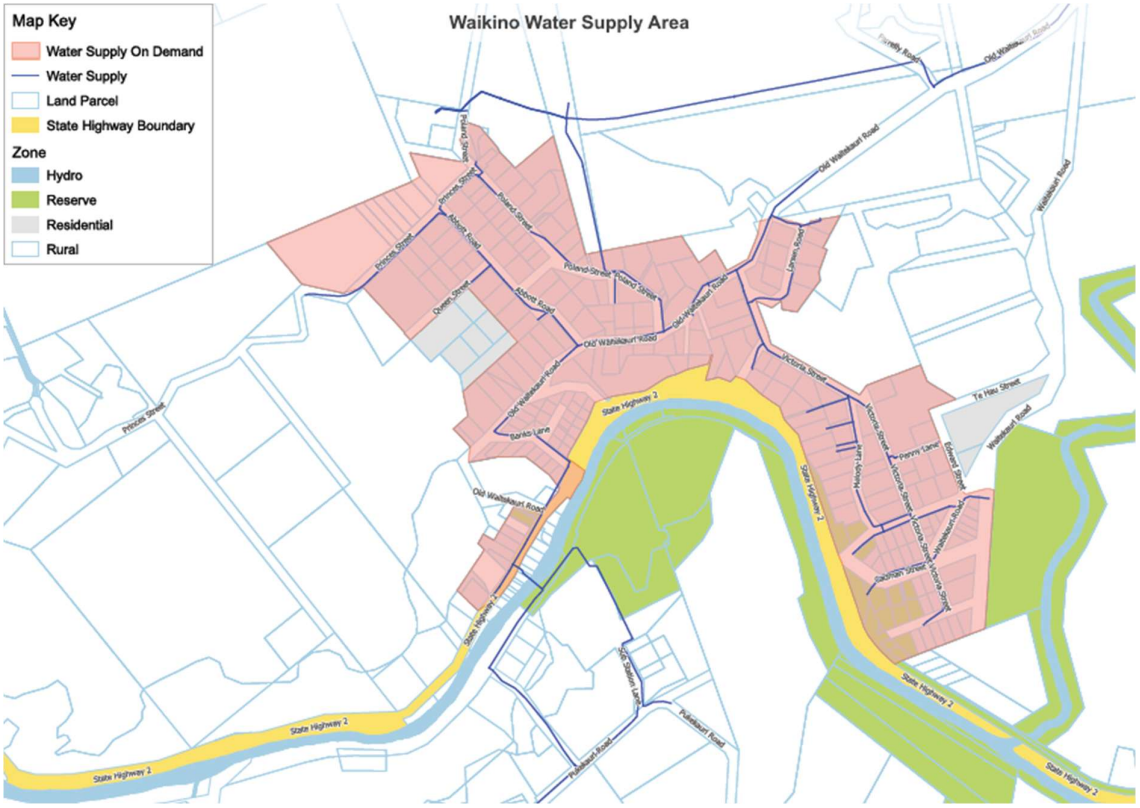
The Waihī water supply has also operated close to, and at times slightly above, its current annual consented abstraction limit over recent years. With forecast population growth in Waihī and Waikino, long-term water availability may become a constraint unless additional consented abstraction volumes are secured. Current estimates indicate an additional annual water requirement of approximately 85,000–224,000 m^3 per annum by 2054, depending on the level of growth experienced.

These forecasts indicate that while current supply arrangements remain adequate in the near term, ongoing monitoring of demand and consideration of future supply options or consented capacity increases may be required to maintain long-term security and resilience of supply.

Existing supply areas are demonstrated below:




Mackaytown & Karangahake Water Supply Area
Map Key
Water Supply On Demand
Water Supply
Land Parcel
State Highway Boundary
Zone
Hydro
Reserve
Residential
Rural
Rahu Road
State Highway 2
Taylor Drive
Woodstock Avenue
Albert Street
Edwin Road
Grown Hill Road
Bush Street
Butlers Road
School Road
Old Waihi Road


Map Key
Water Supply On Demand
Water Supply
Land Parcel
State Highway Boundary
Zone
Hydro
Reserve
Residential
Rural
Waikino Water Supply Area
Old Waihi Road
Poland Street
Princes Street
Albert Road
Queen Street
Victoria Street
Edward Street
Te Hau Street
Waihi Road
Barata Lane
State Highway 2
Puketaura Road

Water loss

District wide

Across the District a mix of planned and reactive maintenance activities take place to minimise the total maintenance cost, improve water use efficiencies and reduce water losses.

The percentage of real water lost from Council's networked reticulation system in 2024/25 was 29%. From January to September 2025, a total of 784 water supply reticulation faults were reported and repaired. Leaks accounted for 526 faults (67% of the total), with the majority occurring in January–March due to dry, warmer weather (Plains 37%, Paeroa 35%, Waihī 28%). Over 80% of leaks were attributed to joint failures and the ageing network as significant lengths of copper water mains are reaching the end of their service life.

The consequences of water loss in the reticulated system include:

- Reduced water availability for consumers, particularly during peak demand periods.
- Reduced resilience during droughts, emergencies, or supply interruptions.
- Increased risk of water restrictions being required sooner than would otherwise be necessary.
- Reduced ability to meet future population growth and development demands.
- Increased costs associated with treating and pumping water that is ultimately lost.
- Higher than necessary operational and maintenance costs due to ongoing leak repairs.
- Increased pressure on water charges or rates to fund losses and infrastructure improvements.
- Increased abstraction from rivers, streams, aquifers, or other water sources.
- Leaks can undermine roads, footpaths, and other infrastructure.
- Reduced confidence in the drinking water network if outages or discoloured water occur.

Council has implemented a range of initiatives to reduce non-revenue water and improve the efficiency of the water supply network. These measures include targeted renewal of ageing pipelines, leak detection programmes, installation of additional bulk water meters, pressure management initiatives, renewal of high-consumption customer meters, and regular network zoning to better understand and manage water losses.

A comprehensive Water Loss Management Programme has been established, incorporating district-wide flow monitoring, smart metering, leak detection, night flow analysis, bulk metering, meter replacement, and targeted pipeline renewals.

Council also continues to promote water conservation through education and awareness programmes, particularly within rural and farming communities.

Ongoing community access

Currently Council has a significant programme of capital works for water assets that is required to meet existing regulatory requirements as well as replacing existing assets. Many of the projects in the first 10 years, address customer concerns in relation to clarity of water and consistency of supply, other projects focus on achieving regulatory requirements, renewal of aging assets and preparing for the future. As at the Long-term Plan 2024-34 with any Annual Plan 2025/26 adjustments, the 10 year capital programme for water is forecast at approx. $57m, with another $60m including inflation, by 2054.

Projected investment in water services[15]

	FY2026/27	FY2027/28	FY2028/29	FY2029/30	FY2030/31	FY2031/32	FY2032/33	FY2033/34
Drinking Water								
Demand	40,259	41,289	42,281	43,235	44,151	45,067	45,983	46,860
Level of service	2,126,880	6,644,562	5,540,000	0	867,750	2,362,000	6,025,000	3,684,000
Renewals	1,597,418	2,376,656	1,494,515	1,524,270	3,113,302	1,766,587	1,595,227	1,652,692

Waikato Waters

As per Part A, as of 1st July 2027, Council will be substantively transferring the delivery of drinking water services, assets and liabilities to Waikato Waters. The transfer of drinking water services to Waikato Waters is not expected to reduce community access to drinking water services. Existing serviced communities are expected to continue receiving drinking water services, with potential long-term benefits arising from increased investment capacity, specialist expertise, regulatory compliance, and network resilience.

Existing communities connected to council drinking water supplies are expected to remain connected, current drinking water sources, treatment plants, reservoirs, and reticulation networks will continue to operate and existing service areas and levels of access are expected to be maintained initially.

[15] https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2jpo4nuxg17q9srdjc4b/hierarchy/Plans-Strategies/Water-Services-Delivery-Plan-2025.pdf

Drinking water quality standards and regulatory requirements will continue to apply under the oversight of Taumata Arowai.

Overtime customer service arrangements and billing processes will change, prioritisation of capital investment will occur across the wider Waikato Waters area rather than on a council-by-council basis, levels of service may become more standardised across the region, future charges and pricing structures may differ from current council arrangements.

Council will continue to have a say in relation to the company and its priorities via a Shareholders Representative Forum (SRF) for which the Mayor is our representative and the Deputy Mayor is our alternative representative.[16]

[16] https://letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/local-water-done-well

Non-Council community drinking water supplies

Community survey

In August 2025, the Council's Triennial Satisfaction survey was completed, and it was indicated that 77% of respondents were connected to the Council water supply. Of those that weren't connected, 6% of respondents utilised a private bore/well, 14% utilised rainwater. Less than 1% utilised a river/stream for their main source of water.[17]

Non-serviced properties

Outside of the public water supply systems, about 2,700 people obtain their water supply from their own rainwater tanks, private bores, or a small number of minor piped networks at various schools and industries that serve more than single premises.

3,824 properties are not serviced in the District by a reticulated water supply. This encompasses 1,296 properties not serviced in the Plains, 765 in Paeroa, and 1,763 Waihī[18].

These properties are predominantly in Kaiaua, Miranda, Mangatarata, Patetonga, Whiritoa [19] Households in these areas supply water to their property by private means, typically from boreholes or rainwater collection systems. This is due to the absence of treatment and reticulated water infrastructure in these locations. In November 2010 the Kaiaua area was incorporated into the Hauraki District (from the former Franklin District Council) when the Auckland City Councils were amalgamated. There were no water supply systems transferred to Hauraki District Council. All current water supply systems in the Kaiaua area are privately owned and operated[20].

Public register

Non-council drinking water supplies can be identified through the Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai Public Register of Drinking Water Supplies – Hinekorako. No private or community owned supplies are registered in the Hauraki District. [21]

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[17] Triennial Satisfaction Survey. Doc # 4005046
[18] Hauraki District Council Water Services Delivery Plan https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2jpo4nuxg17q9srdjc4b/hierarchy/Plans-Strategies/Water-Services-Delivery-Plan-2025.pdf
[19] Hauraki District Council Water Services Delivery Plan https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2jpo4nuxg17q9srdjc4b/hierarchy/Plans-Strategies/Water-Services-Delivery-Plan-2025.pdf
[20] Water Safety Plan – Kerepēhi, Doc #3307169
[21] https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/about-us/reports-and-publications/water-services-insights-and-performance#e1366 –

Water Carrier supply

The Taumata Arowai Public Register of Drinking Water Supplies – Hinekorako lists the following water carrier services as non-council services within the Hauraki District[22].

- WC00491 KR Casey Water Supply, however the carrier's registration has lapsed as it is understood the business has sold.

The following are also registered in neighbouring districts, however are likely, based on their product and service descriptions, to be serving the Hauraki District.

- Water Domestic Water, services Waikato, Hauraki, Bay of Plenty & Waipa: https://domesticwater.co.nz/
- Water Direct, based in Te Aroha, contact 021 424 137
- Hydra-Care, based in Thames. Website: https://hydracare.co.nz/services/water-supply-tank-refilling/

Other water carriers, registered with Council include:

- Wastewater Management Ltd
- Cheetham Excavators Ltd
- Waikato Water Supplies Ltd
- A Plus Water
- Kaiaua Household Water supplies Ltd
- LM Technologies Ltd
- Waikato Domestic Water
- Underground H20

Current and future demand

Water carriers provide an important service to communities and properties that do not have access to a reticulated drinking water supply. Demand for water carrier services is typically driven by rural and remote households reliant on rainwater tanks, drought-related water shortages, temporary supply interruptions, commercial activities, agricultural operations, and community facilities requiring supplementary drinking water. Water carriers also play an important role in maintaining access to drinking water during emergencies and periods of high demand.

There are currently three bulk water filling stations located within the district at the Waitakaruru Water Treatment Plant, Kerepēhi Water Treatment Plant, and Grey Street, Paeroa. All stations are metered and operate under an honesty-based payment system. Across the three stations, 2,775m3 was sourced in 2025/26, with an average of 1,800m3 sourced per annum since 2013/14.

[22] https://hinekorako.taumataarowai.govt.nz/publicregister/supplies/

To improve access and resilience, an additional bulk water filling station is planned for Waihi in 2026/27. This will ensure that a bulk water filling station is available within each ward and provide improved access to potable water on the northern side of the Karangahake Gorge. The additional station is expected to enhance emergency preparedness and reduce travel distances for water carriers servicing communities such as Whiritoa, which does not have a reticulated drinking water supply and relies on alternative sources of drinking water.

Future demand may increase due to more frequent droughts.

Risks

While these supplies are subject to oversight under the Water Services Act 2021, they present different risks compared with Council reticulated drinking water systems.

Communities reliant on water carrier services may face increased risks relating to water quality, continuity of supply, affordability, and service resilience. Risks include contamination during transport or storage, reduced transparency around water quality, dependency on limited service providers, and reduced reliability during emergency events or periods of high demand.

Quantity risks:

- Restrictions at council-approved fill points during droughts or peak demand periods, high regional demand where multiple customers rely on tanker deliveries.
- Supply interruptions during power outages, mechanical breakdowns, fuel supply constraints, or extreme weather events.
- Consumers may not know the origin of the water or whether it meets drinking water standards.

Quality risks:

- Inadequately cleaned or sanitised tankers, hoses, or fittings.
- Cross-contamination, where tankers are used for both potable and non-potable purposes without appropriate controls.

Safety risks:

- Delayed identification of contamination events if post-delivery water testing is not undertaken.
- Inconsistent maintenance: infrequent tank cleaning, filter changes, or lamp replacement; no routine water testing.

- Uncovered or poorly sealed tanks allowing vermin entry, mosquito breeding, or accidental contamination
- Unsafe access: fall risks during roof or tank inspections; confined-space risks inside tanks.
- Improper interconnection with tanker top-ups without certified backflow prevention, risking contamination of household plumbing and potentially the wider network.
- Ongoing operating costs for testing, consumables, maintenance, and tanker deliveries means prices and availability may tighten during regional shortages.

Consequences of loss or deficiency of service

A loss or deficiency of water supply carrier services may reduce access to safe drinking water for those households, or businesses that rely on delivered water supplies. In particular:

- Reduced access to safe drinking water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene.
- Increased risk of consumers using unsafe alternative water sources.
- Potential public health impacts if adequate quantities of potable water are unavailable.
- Households and businesses relying on delivered water may run out of water.
- Reduced resilience during droughts, emergencies, or infrastructure failures.
- Increased vulnerability for isolated rural communities.
- Increased costs for consumers if water must be sourced from more distant locations.
- Potential loss of productivity where water is essential for operations.
- Disproportionate impacts on rural and remote communities without access to reticulated supplies.
- Increased demand on emergency management resources during prolonged shortages.
- Increased pressure on Council to provide temporary drinking water supplies.
- Requirement to establish emergency water distribution points or community drinking water stations.

Ongoing community access

There are currently no plans to remove any of the existing bulk water filling stations within the district. The existing stations at Waitakaruru, Kerepēhi, and Paeroa are expected to continue providing access to potable water for water carriers and other

authorised users. The Waihi station is expected to be constructed in 2026/27 and a greater level of service for the northern communities of the district.

While the existing bulk water filling stations currently operate under an honesty-based payment system, alternative access and charging arrangements may be investigated in the future to improve monitoring, cost recovery, and operational efficiency.

Private community drinking water supplies

Private suppliers have a legal duty to supply safe drinking water and must comply with established drinking water standards. Suppliers that serve over 25 people or provide to a commercial/public facility (like a café, holiday park or marae) are legally required to register with Taumata Arowai[23].

Self-supplied buildings

For self-supplied buildings (for example properties using private bores, rainwater tanks, springs, or individual on-site water systems rather than a reticulated supply), risks to consumers generally arise because the property owner is responsible for water quality, treatment, maintenance, and monitoring.

Self-supplied buildings in Hauraki district include community halls, marae, sports facilities, the hospitality industry and schools.

Communities served

The Taumata Arowai Public Register of Drinking Water Supplies – Hinekorako lists the following self-supplied buildings:

- KAI045 EcoQuest Centre
- KAI061 Kaiaua Park Water (NZMCA)
- KAI024 Kaihere School
- WAI147 Waimata School

The Taumata Arowai Public Register of Drinking Water Supplies – Hinekorako lists the following unregistered suppliers:

- Hauraki District Council – Whiritoa Surf Lifesaving Club
- Hauraki District Council – Community Hall Whiritoa

Other known suppliers include:

- Auckland Council – Waharoa Regional Park
- Hauraki District Council – Kaiaua Toilet Facility
- Waitawheta Camp
- Waihi Academy and Lavender Farm
- Dickey Flat Adventure Camp

[23] Water services legislation changes | The Water Services Authority - Taumata Arowai

Current and future demand

Some initial investigation has been done on the possibility of extending water supplies in the vicinity of Kaihere and Waimata Schools. No budget has been allocated for this; however budget is included in 2028 for a sanitary survey for the extension of water supply services district wide.

Risk

Self-supplied buildings face risks associated with the reliability, quality, and resilience of their drinking water supplies. As responsibility for the supply rests with the building owner or operator, the effectiveness of maintenance, monitoring, and contingency planning can vary significantly. A loss or deficiency of service may reduce access to safe drinking water and affect the ability of the building to operate, particularly where it serves members of the public or provides community services.

Quantity risks:

- Bore levels, springs, or rainwater collection systems may be affected by drought, seasonal variability, or climate change. More specifically, reliance on roofwater as the principle supply is subject to variations in rainfall and it is unlikely that this source will provide an adequate supply to meet the District's average requirement of approximately 200 litres per person per day.
- Many self-supplied buildings rely on a single water source with limited backup options.
- Pump failures, pipe damage, or storage tank failures can interrupt supply.
- Roof area or tank size insufficient for demand; rapid depletion in summer.
- Losses and inefficiencies including leaks, poor guttering, evaporation from unsealed tanks.
- Demand spikes when guests, building works or irrigation outstrip normal capacity.
- Bore interference may cause a reduction in neighbouring abstractions available yield.

Quality risks:

- Water may become contaminated by bacteria, viruses, or protozoa from animal waste, septic systems, flooding, stormwater runoff, or poor source protection.
- UV systems, filters, pumps, chlorination systems, or other treatment equipment may fail or be inadequately maintained.
- Risks may include nitrates, agricultural chemicals, heavy metals, naturally occurring contaminants, or contamination from nearby land use activities.
- Roof collection systems and storage tanks may accumulate sediment, organic matter, vermin, insects, or bird droppings.

- Water quality issues may remain undetected because supplies may not be routinely sampled or monitored.
- Property owners may incur significant costs for testing, treatment upgrades, repairs, or replacement infrastructure.
- Agricultural intensification, development, or environmental changes may affect source water quality over time.
- Increased droughts, flooding, or severe weather events may reduce supply reliability and affect water quality.
- Sediment, colour, taste or odour issues; discolouration from disturbed tanks or bores.

Safety risks:

- Property owners may not have sufficient knowledge regarding treatment requirements, maintenance, or contamination risks.
- Consumers may only become aware of issues once illness or visible water quality problems occur.
- Water systems without adequate backflow prevention can allow contaminants from appliances, irrigation systems, industrial activities, or connected plumbing systems to enter the drinking water supply
- Consumers bear responsibility for ensuring their water is safe and fit for consumption.
- Unsafe access could result in fall risks during roof or tank inspections or confined-space risks inside tanks.
- Electrocution or fire risks from poorly installed pumps, controllers, or generators.

Consequences of loss or deficiency of service

The consequences are likely to be significant for private supplies due to the number of consumers affected and the community functions these supplies support.

- Reduced access to safe drinking water for a group of consumers.
- Increased risk of illness if water quality deteriorates or treatment systems fail.
- Potential exposure to microbiological, chemical, or protozoal contaminants.
- Greater impact on vulnerable populations such as children, elderly persons, and visitors.
- Interruption to normal activities at community facilities.
- Closure or restricted use of facilities if drinking water cannot be provided safely.
- Reduced ability to provide sanitation, food preparation, and hygiene services.
- Disruption to community gatherings, events, and cultural activities.

- Costs associated with emergency water supplies, treatment upgrades, or repairs.
- Loss of income for facilities that rely on visitors or commercial activity.
- Additional operating costs for water cartage and temporary water treatment.
- Increased reliance on water carriers, bottled water, or emergency water distribution.
- Reduced ability of the facility to support community response and recovery during emergencies.
- Greater pressure on alternative drinking water sources.
- Potential non-compliance with drinking water regulatory requirements.
- Increased regulatory oversight where registered drinking water supplies are affected.
- Reputational impacts for supply owners and operators.

Ongoing community access

Ongoing access to private drinking water supplies will continue to be the responsibility of individual supply owners to maintain their water sources, treatment systems, storage infrastructure, and contingency arrangements.

Council's role will focus on supporting resilience through education, emergency management planning and support and consideration of future reticulated supply options where appropriate.

It is expected that Taumata Arowai will not routinely monitor or enforce compliance but continue to provide information and guidance to private drinking water suppliers, on testing and monitoring drinking water quality, treatment systems and source protection, advice on managing risks from contamination, drought, and system failures and resources to help supply owners understand their responsibilities.[24]

[24] https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/drinking-water-suppliers-and-operators/for-drinking-water-suppliers/very-small-community-supply#e1777

Community halls

Community halls that serve more than 25 people and rely on self-supplied drinking water sources are included within the scope of this assessment. Community halls have the potential to serve more than 25 people and are often self-supplied. Risks may arise where source water, treatment systems, storage infrastructure, and monitoring processes are not adequately maintained or managed. The risks are similar to other self-supplied buildings (and as such have not been repeated), but there are some additional considerations

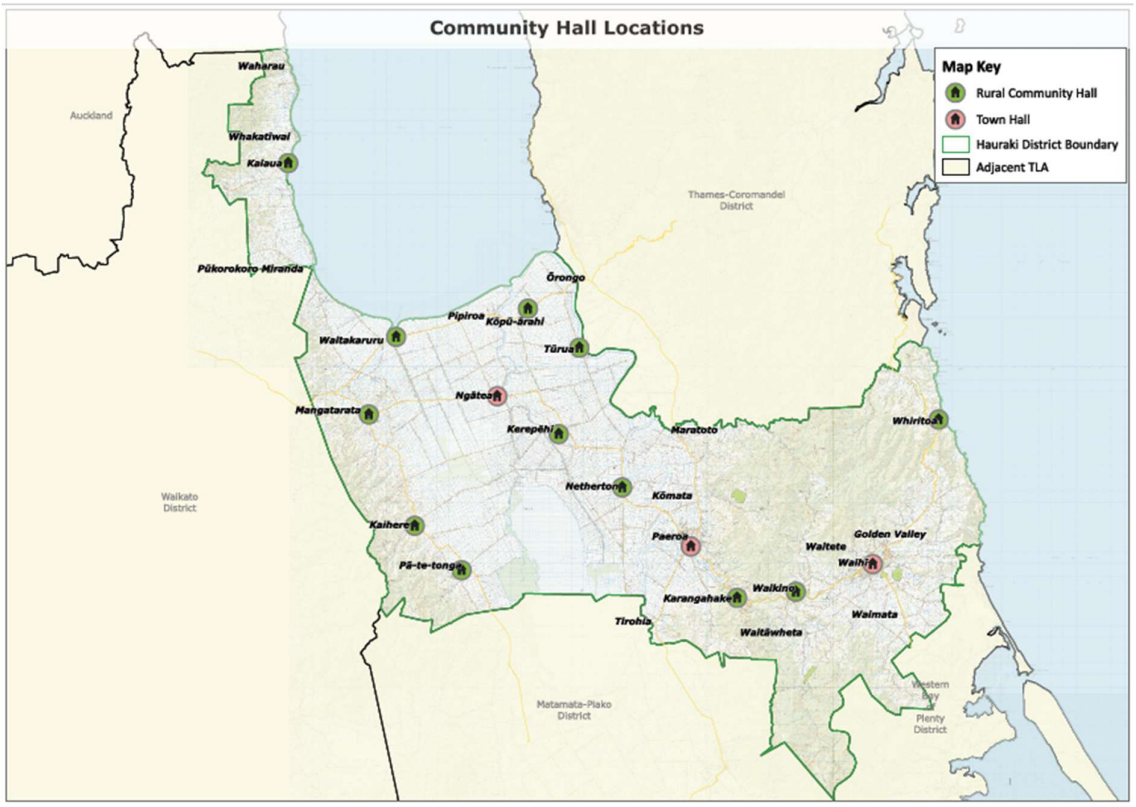
These include:

- Water may be used for food preparation during community events, increasing potential exposure.
- Hall closures if water quality becomes unsafe or supply is unavailable.
- Cancellation of community events, meetings, emergency response activities, and social gatherings.
- Inability to provide basic amenities such as toilets, handwashing facilities, and kitchens.
- Reliance on volunteers to manage, monitor, and maintain the water supply.
- Lack of technical expertise to identify water quality or infrastructure issues.
- Inconsistent monitoring, testing, and record keeping.
- Limited funding available for repairs, treatment upgrades, monitoring, or replacement infrastructure.
- Unexpected costs associated with water quality incidents or source failures.
- Potential need to purchase water from carriers during shortages.
- Unclear ownership and responsibility for maintaining the water supply.
- Many community halls serve as gathering points or welfare centres during emergencies.
- Loss of drinking water may reduce the hall's ability to support emergency response and recovery activities.
- Increased reliance on external water deliveries during civil defence events.

Current and future demand

There are nine rural community halls located throughout the district, the majority of which are managed and maintained by community hall committees or incorporated societies, with Council owning the land. Two further rural community halls, Netherton and Kaihere, have been sold and moved onto school grounds. In 2025, the Kopurahi hall was purchased by a private buyer.

The future status of the Patetonga Hall land may be influenced by rezoning proposals. At this time, it is understood the Hall is not in use.



Demand for drinking water at community halls is generally low and event-based, reflecting the intermittent nature of hall use. Water is typically required for drinking, food preparation, handwashing, toilet facilities, and cleaning during community events, meetings, recreational activities, and private functions. Demand can vary depending on the size and frequency of events and may increase during emergency response situations where halls are used as community gathering points or welfare centres.

Safety risks:

- Community halls are often used irregularly, which can result in water stagnation within pipes and storage systems, increasing the potential for deterioration in water quality.
- Community halls may be used by children, older persons, visitors, or vulnerable populations who may be more susceptible to adverse health effects.

Consequences of loss or deficiency of service

A loss or deficiency of drinking water service at a community hall may result in the facility being unable to provide safe drinking water, sanitation, food preparation, and

hygiene facilities for users. This may disrupt community events, meetings, recreational activities, and emergency response functions. Where alternative water supplies are not readily available, the hall's ability to operate may be significantly reduced, affecting community wellbeing and resilience.

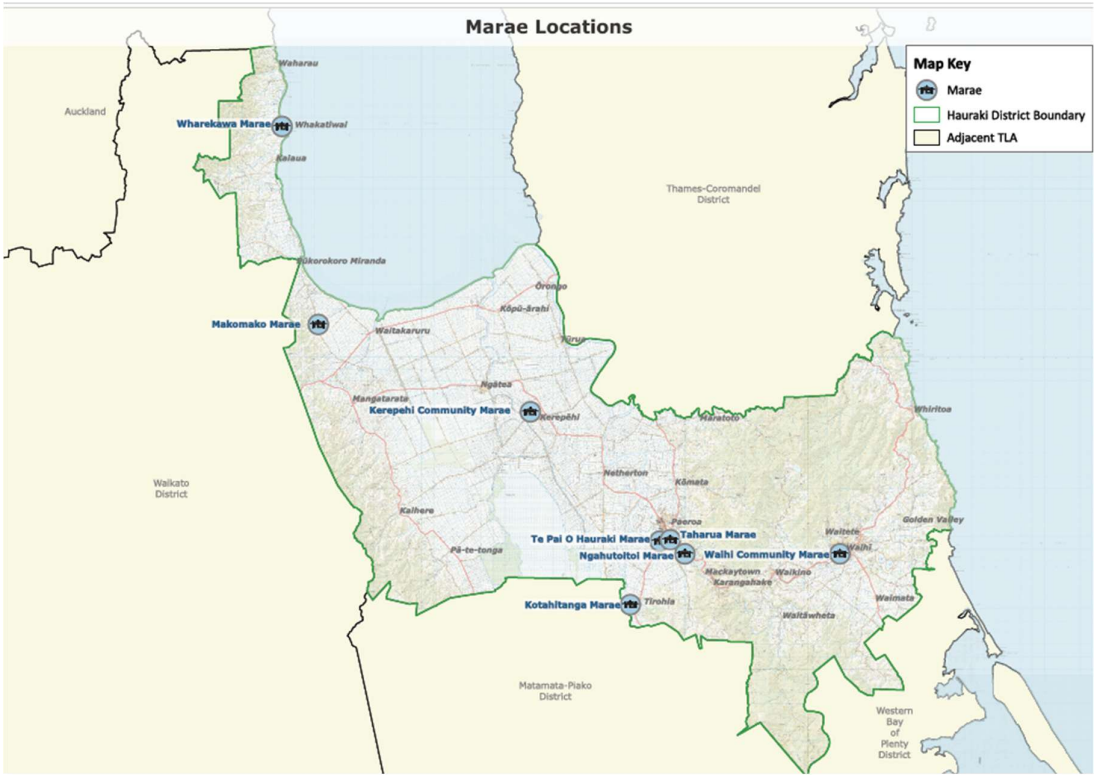
Ongoing community access

Community halls that rely on self-supplied drinking water are expected to continue to provide access to drinking water for hall users. Ongoing access will depend on the continued operation and maintenance of the water source, storage, treatment, and distribution infrastructure by the hall owners or managing committees. Access may be supported through regular maintenance, water quality monitoring, source protection, and contingency arrangements such as alternative water supplies or water carrier services during periods of supply disruption.

Marae

Marae are important community assets within the District and may function as community drinking water supplies, particularly during hui, tangihanga, and other events where visitor numbers increase. In the Hauraki District, all marae, except for two have reticulated water supply. This assessment is in reference to those two marae, being Makomako Marae and Wharekawa Marae.

For marae, the risks are similar to other self-supplied buildings (and as such have not been repeated), but there are some additional considerations because marae can experience high numbers of visitors, intermittent but intensive use and often serve an important role during emergency response and community support.



Current and future demand

Wharekawa Marae self-supply via tank water and have solar panels onsite that provide back-up power for water supply, and lighting and hot water, during power outage.

Makomako Marae relies on self-supplied drinking water. Makomako Marae has been undertaking long-term redevelopment planning and feasibility work for the Marae as a whole.

It is expected that in the forseeable future, given the location of both Wharekawa and Makomako maraes on the Wharekawa Coast, both marae and residential properties will remain on private or self-supplied drinking water systems.

Risks

Quantity risks:

- Marae often function as community support or emergency response locations; supply limitations or water quality issues during emergency events may affect community resilience.

Quality risks:

- Marae may experience periods of low use followed by large gatherings (e.g., tangihanga, hui, wānanga), potentially placing pressure on supply capacity and affecting water quality.

Safety risks:

- Marae are used by a broad range of people including children, kaumātua, visitors, and individuals with increased vulnerability to waterborne illness.

Consequences of loss or deficiency of service

A loss or deficiency of drinking water service at a marae may affect the ability of the marae to provide safe drinking water, food preparation, sanitation, and hygiene facilities for whānau, visitors, and the wider community. This may disrupt cultural activities, hui, tangihanga, wānanga, and community events, and may limit the marae's ability to fulfil its role as a gathering place and centre of community support.

Where a marae is used as a welfare centre or emergency response facility, a loss of drinking water service may also reduce community resilience and the ability to support people during emergencies. The severity of the impact will depend on the availability of alternative drinking water sources and the duration of the service interruption.

Ongoing community access

Ongoing access to drinking water at marae is expected to continue through the operation and maintenance of existing drinking water supplies by marae trustees and operators. Marae may also utilise contingency measures such as stored water, alternative water sources, water carrier services, or emergency water supplies during periods of disruption. As important cultural and community facilities, maintaining access to safe drinking water is critical to supporting marae functions and community wellbeing.

Unregistered supplies

The Whiritoa Surf Club and the Whiritoa Community Hall are both known supplies that are unregistered with Taumata Arowai.

The Whiritoa Surf club is supplied by a bore at greater than 30m depth and it has UV filtration in place. It can supply around 100 people or more in an event.

The Whiritoa Community Hall is supplied by rainwater/roof water and has UV filtration in place. The supply population is unknown.

For the purposes of this assessment, both the Whiritoa Surf Club and the Whiritoa Community Hall are considered community supplies, and as such have been included above on page under *Private community drinking water supplies*.

Community drinking water stations

A community drinking water station is a publicly accessible location where treated drinking water is made available for people to collect and use. It is generally intended to provide access to safe drinking water where households do not have a reticulated supply, where temporary supply support is needed, or during emergencies.

Consumers relying on community drinking water stations may face risks relating to water quality, continuity of supply, and accessibility. Risks include contamination at the point of collection, interruptions to supply, capacity limitations during emergency events, and barriers to equitable access for some members of the community.

The Taumata Arowai Public Register of Drinking Water Supplies – Hinekorako lists no community drinking water stations for the District.

Given there are no stations, there are no identified risks, consequences of loss or deficiency of service.

Consequences of stormwater or sewage discharges

Stormwater and wastewater discharges are subject to the regulatory framework of the Waikato Regional Plan. Discharges can arise due to unforeseen events such as storm events or technical malfunctions. As the majority of the Council's water supply network relies on surface water abstractions, it is vulnerable to such events. Where they occur they have the potential to result in significant risks to public health through the introduction of contaminants, and to generally affect the suitability of supplies for abstraction through issues such as turbidity and discolouration.

The principal mechanism for reducing the potential for any risks to public health is through the provision of appropriate storage and treatment. The location of facilities ensures that they are physically detached from any potential discharges of sewage and are elevated above areas prone to flooding.

The risks to public health in those areas served by an on-demand network are minimal. However, not all parts of the network receive that level of service and on-site storage is required in many areas and by several key communities. Such risks are significantly elevated for communities which rely entirely on private supply, storage and treatment. Stormwater or wastewater discharges will gravitate towards watercourses and therefore threaten surface water supplies. Storm events can also be of such intensity that they flood septic tanks and saturate effluent fields, resulting in contaminated run-off beyond the soakage areas. Through leaching or groundwater recharge, such contaminants can also reach groundwater sources, increasing the vulnerability of communities served by shallow bores or undefined aquifers.

PART C – SUMMARY

This Drinking Water Assessment has been prepared to meet the requirements of section 69 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 and to inform Council about the current and future access that communities within the Hauraki District have to drinking water services.

The assessment identifies that the majority of the district population receives drinking water through Council-owned reticulated water supply schemes servicing Ngātea, Kerepēhi, Tūrua, Paeroa, Waikino and Waihī. These schemes generally provide reliable and safe drinking water services supported by treatment infrastructure, monitoring programmes, Water Safety Plans and asset management planning. However, parts of the network remain non-on-demand and require on-site storage to maintain supply reliability during peak demand periods.

The assessment also identifies that a significant number of properties across the district continue to rely on private or self-supplied drinking water systems, including roof water collection, private bores, springs, water carrier services and community-based supplies. Communities without reticulated supply include Kaiaua, Miranda, Mangatārata, Patetonga and Whiritoa. These communities may face increased risks relating to water quality, continuity of supply, affordability, resilience and treatment system management.

The assessment notes that climate change, growth pressures and evolving regulatory standards are expected to place additional pressure on drinking water infrastructure and service delivery over time. Increased drought conditions, more frequent heavy rainfall events and potential impacts on source water quality and availability may require future investment, operational changes and additional resilience measures.

The assessment also recognises the significant reform occurring across the water services sector through the Local Water Done Well programme and the establishment of Waikato Waters Ltd. Hauraki District Council is scheduled to substantively transfer its water services business to Waikato Waters on 1 July 2027. As a result, this assessment will also help inform future planning, investment and service delivery arrangements for Waikato Waters.

Overall, the assessment concludes that the district's drinking water services generally provide an appropriate level of protection for public health, particularly within Council's reticulated supply areas. However, there remain ongoing risks and challenges associated with ageing infrastructure, climate change, future growth, consented abstraction limits, and private or self-supplied drinking water systems that will require continued monitoring, planning and investment over time.