

8. PENDING LEGISLATION AND REGULATION CHANGES AFFECTING WATER SUPPLY

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The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors of pending legislation changes in respect to water supply, as well as the possible impact these may have with Christchurch.

BACKGROUND

Government, principally via the Ministry of Health, has been working actively for a number of years to raise the awareness for the need for improvements in the manner in which Water Supply Authorities operate and manage public water supplies. This emphasis is about to move into a new phase, which involves:

- The introduction to Parliament of the Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Bill,
- Revision of the NZ Drinking Water Standards,
- Ministry Of the Environment's proposed grading of human drinking water sources.

A briefing paper providing further detail is attached, refer attachment 1.

SUMMARY

The Ministries of Health and the Environment are both presently working on the introduction of legislation and regulations focused on a risk based approach to reducing the risk of incidence of drinking water disease. Most of the likely requirements have been anticipated, and will not have a large impact on the way this Council manages and operates its public water supply system. However, there is the real likelihood that a number of Christchurch wells will be classified 'non-secure' and thus require considerably more water testing.

Officers are in dialogue with Ministry officials and will be forwarding a formal technical submission on the NZ Drinking Water Standards review. The submission will advocate solutions that support the intent of the regulations, but at the same time are not unduly onerous to implement.

It is to be noted that the pending legislation changes could result in increased water supply operating costs of \$250,000 per/year which will need to be reflected in the City Water and Waste operating budget starting in 2005/06 and ongoing.

Staff

Recommendation: That the likely increase in operating costs be noted.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.