

24 June 2026

Commerce Commission

Wellington

Via email: wai@comcom.govt.nz

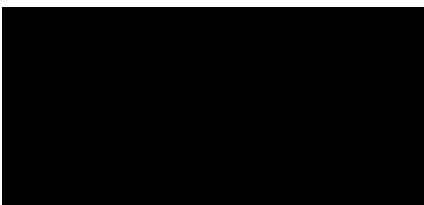
Tēnā koutou katoa

Information Disclosure for water services – minor amendments

Water New Zealand (Water NZ) welcomes the opportunity to submit on the consultation on the minor amendments to the Information Disclosure for water services.

Water NZ is a national not-for-profit organisation which promotes the sustainable management and development of New Zealand's three waters (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater). Water NZ is the country's largest water industry body, providing leadership and support through advocacy, collaboration and professional development. Its ~3,600 members are drawn from across the water management industry, including council-controlled organisations, regional councils and territorial authorities, consultants, suppliers, government agencies, academia and scientists.

Overall, Water New Zealand supports the proposed amendments. The amendments address a number of minor drafting and implementation issues and will provide greater clarity and practicality for regulated suppliers as they comply with the new information disclosure regime. We have provided comments on one proposed amendment relating to clause A11, where we consider additional clarification would be beneficial to ensure regulated suppliers have certainty regarding the ongoing operation of the disclosure requirements. Our comments are set out in a table below



Gillian Blythe

Chief Executive, Water New Zealand

Existing Clause	Proposed Amendment	Water New Zealand Submission
Clause 2.4(3)(b) lists exceptions to district-level disclosure but does not capture all clauses that should be excluded (clauses 5.27, 5.29, 5.32, 5.34–5.36, and 5.37).	Expand the exceptions list in clause 2.4(3)(b) to exclude clauses 5.27, 5.29, 5.32, 5.34–5.36, and 5.37 from district-level disclosure requirements.	Water New Zealand supports the proposed amendment to clause 2.4(3)(b).
Clause A11 provides that disclosure under clauses 4.6, 4.7, and 4.8 is not required before 30 June 2026. The determination does not explicitly require ongoing disclosure from a specific date.	Replace clause A11 to provide that disclosure under clauses 4.6, 4.7, and 4.8 is not required until 1 August 2026.	Water New Zealand supports the proposed amendment to clause A11 disclosures under clauses 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8 to commence 1 August 2026 Water New Zealand recommends that the Commission clarify that the ongoing disclosure obligation referred to in the consultation paper is satisfied through the event-triggered disclosure requirements contained in clauses 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8. This would provide regulated suppliers with greater certainty regarding their continuing disclosure obligations and how the commencement provision interacts with the existing disclosure requirements.
Clause A1(3) lists exclusions from first-year basic disclosures but does not capture the non-network opex component of clause 5.24, and refers to clause 5.28(3) rather than clause 5.28 in full.	Amend clause A1(3)(h)–(k) to include the non-network opex component of clause 5.24 and to refer to clause 5.28 in full.	Water New Zealand supports the proposed amendment to clause A1(3).
Clauses 4.4 and 4.12 require regulated suppliers to disclose specified information within 5 working days of becoming aware.	Extend the timeframe in clauses 4.4 and 4.12 from 5 working days to 10 working days, consistent with clause 4.3.	Water New Zealand supports the proposed amendment. Extending the timeframe to 10 working days is more practicable for regulated suppliers and ensures consistency across the occasional disclosure provisions.
Clauses 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.11, 4.12, and A12(2) require disclosure “to the Commission”, which may be read as excluding the public disclosure requirement in clause 2.5.	Delete the words “to the Commission” from clauses 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.11, 4.12, and A12(2) so that the general public disclosure obligation in clause 2.5 applies.	Water New Zealand supports the proposed amendment. Removing the words “to the Commission” ensures the public disclosure requirement in clause 2.5 applies consistently to all relevant occasional disclosure provisions.