Water Services Authority
Taumata Arowai

OIA Ref: CAS-02125-P6S2K7

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Tēnā koe Warwick

Official information request: Drinking Water Standards Review 2027 re Glyphosate and AMPA

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA – the Act) request received on 2 November 2026 for a number of details regarding the inclusion of Glyphosate and AMPA in the 2027 review.

Response

Our responses to each part of your request are set out below, in accordance with the Act.

1. Scope of the Review

Will glyphosate and AMPA be considered in the 2027 review, including whether an MAV should be established? If not, how are contaminants without an existing MAV assessed for possible inclusion?

The Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai (the Authority) is currently undertaking the assessment work that will inform the 2027 review of the Drinking Water Standards (the Standards).

Glyphosate may be considered as part of this work, although no formal decision has yet been made about whether a Maximum Acceptable Value (MAV) will be proposed or established. Glyphosate, as a hazardous substance, is also regulated by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. Further information about the regulatory requirements applying to glyphosate is available on the EPA website: Glyphosate rules and regulation | EPA.

AMPA is not currently being considered separately as the Authority's approach does not generally include separate assessment of pesticide degradation products where these are not addressed in comparable international drinking-water frameworks.

As part of the assessment, the Authority compares New Zealand's existing MAVs with relevant drinking water values and guidance from international jurisdictions and organisations including Australia, Canada, the European Union and the World Health Organization. Where a contaminant does not have an existing New Zealand MAV but has a relevant drinking water value or guideline value elsewhere, it may be identified for further consideration.

The assessment is ongoing, with further information about the scope and approach to the 2027 Standards review expected to be communicated publicly early next year. We advise you to monitor the webpage Drinking Water Standards Review for information and updates.

2. Existing monitoring information

Does the Authority hold, or have access to, monitoring results for glyphosate and AMPA in New Zealand's drinking-water supplies, source waters or groundwater? If such information exists, is it publicly available, including the concentrations detected, sampling locations, frequency of testing and laboratory detection or reporting limits?

The Authority does not hold, or have access to, monitoring results for glyphosate or AMPA in New Zealand drinking water supplies, source waters or groundwater, including information on concentrations, sampling locations, testing frequency, or laboratory detection or reporting limits. Testing for glyphosate and AMPA is not currently required under the drinking water compliance rules.

Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA as the requested information is not held by the Authority. Such information may instead be held by regional councils or relevant research organisations, such as the New Zealand Institute for Public Health and Forensic Science, where research of this nature is undertaken.

3. Scientific evidence

Will the review consider recent international research concerning glyphosate and AMPA, including potential chronic, developmental and reproductive health effects, and the implications of exposure through multiple pathways?

The assessment informing the 2027 Standards review is currently underway. The detailed scope and methodology have not yet been finalised and, accordingly, no formal decision has yet been made about the categories of scientific evidence or exposure pathways that will form part of the review.

Further information about the scope and approach to the review is expected to be communicated publicly early next year on the Drinking Water Standards Review webpage.

4. International standards and guidance

Will the review examine how other jurisdictions regulate glyphosate and AMPA in drinking water, including the scientific basis for differing guideline values, monitoring requirements and regulatory approaches?

As outlined in our response to question one, international drinking-water standards and guidance form part of the Authority's assessment process. The mapping exercise includes comparison with relevant drinking water values and guidance established by international jurisdictions and organisations including Australia, Canada, the European Union and the World Health Organization.

However, the detailed methodology and scope of the 2027 Standards review remain under development. No final decision has yet been made about the extent to which the matters identified in your question, including differing monitoring and regulatory approaches, will form part of the final review.

Further information about the review will be communicated publicly on the Drinking Water Standards Review webpage once the assessment and review approach have been sufficiently developed.

5. Opportunities to contribute evidence

As the scientific review is already underway, we would appreciate advice on whether independent organisations may submit relevant research, monitoring information or other evidence before the formal public consultation stage

The programme and timeframes for the 2027 Standards review, including consultation arrangements, are currently being developed.

The Authority anticipates that there will be an opportunity for public consultation next year. Further information about the consultation process, including how interested parties can participate, will be published on the Authority's website once the arrangements and timeframes have been confirmed.

The Ministry of Health also has a role in providing scientific and public-health input relevant to the Drinking Water Standards review. Matters relating specifically to the Ministry's consideration of research or scientific evidence may therefore need to be directed to the Ministry of Health.

We encourage you to monitor the Authority's website - Drinking Water Standards Review for information about the review and opportunities to participate.

The role of the Ombudsman

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

If you would like to discuss this response, please contact us at oia@taumataarowai.govt.nz

Ngā mihi



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