

Short & Slappy

Kia Ora,

Welcome to the March 2024 edition of our newsletter.

We hope that you've had a great start to 2024 and have been enjoying the long, hot (in most areas) summer. As we move into autumn, further changes on how the 3 Waters reforms will be managed continues to dominate discussions for those in the industry. By late 2023, trade and industrial wastewaters was an area that looked like there was going to be real progress in how trade waste could be managed in NZ. As an organisation it is important that we continue this work, to try and ensure that 2024 is the year for positive change in trade and industrial wastewater delivery and management in NZ. Geoff Young's opinion piece in this newsletter discusses this in more detail.

Your feedback is invaluable, please send any news items, or items about what's happening in your area – good or bad. As an organisation we are here to reflect your interests and expectations.

Ngā mihi

Jennifer

Jennifer Leadley - NZTIWF Executive Officer



Liquid & Hazardous Wastes Code Compliancy

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING
COMPANY THAT HAVE RECENTLY RENEWED
THEIR CODE COMPLIANCY STATUS.

- The Bog Dog (Whangarei)

BREAKING NEWS!

Industrial Waters Conference 2024

The NZTIWF Board are pleased to announce that this year's Industrial Waters Conference will be held at the

Palmerston North Convention Centre, August 12-14 2024.

Keep an eye on your inbox, further information about the conference including a Call for Abstracts will be sent out shortly.

If you would like to register your interest as a presenter, exhibitor or a sponsor please contact Jennifer at nztiwf.org@gmail.com



NZTIWF Membership

We are pleased to announce that membership registrations can now be completed conveniently through our website. Simply visit nztiwf.org.nz and follow the easy steps to become a member of our community today!

NZTIWF Welfare Fund

The NZTIWF Welfare Fund has been set up to provide support for members and/or their immediate families in cases of, but not limited to, bereavement, serious illness, and hardship. Information about the fund including how to apply can be found on [here](#).

Faces Behind the Forum



KOMAL DEVI - TRADEWASTE OFFICER

Komal Devi is the Tradewaste Officer for the South Taranaki District Council since 2022 and she has been busy educating businesses and improving tradewaste in the small towns of Hawera, Opunake, Eltham and Waverly and a few others.

Komal has over 11 years of experience in the water and wastewater sector, in Fiji where she originates from.

She is deeply committed to environmental sustainability and cleaner production so the quality of tradewaste discharged is always getting better. Smaller food producers can create major challenges in small communities and Komal addresses the FOG issue in her community by education, implementing the grease trap manual and working closely with the premise owners and local plumbers. This she finds energising as well as fulfilling.

As a previous bakery owner, she knows the challenges, but this has not distracted her from her other passion which is Food. She loves baking and cooking. When she is not cooking or looking at traps, she is busy gardening, spending time with her family and friends as well as creating bead jewellery. (Put your orders in now for delivery at the conference. Lol)



Comments from Geoff.

Geoff is actively engaging with central and local government and a wide range of interest groups ensuring that the voice of NZTIWF is heard. Keep an eye out for Geoff's personal commentary and views via his LinkedIn account.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/geoff-young-36486839/>

This month, a bit about Compliance.

This comment mostly relates to compliance with consents agreements and permits related to water and its use, but this could apply to any form of compliance where control of all the variables is just not possible. For those of us on the policy side of things, compliance is black or white. You either comply or you don't. For those of us on the operational side of things, we see compliance as an inconsistent 3 Waters looking to the future:

As most of you are most likely fully aware, I was an ardent and vocal supporter of The 3 Waters Reforms. Although I mourn the repeal of the 2023 Waters' Reform legislation and the scrapping of all the work that was done towards this, it is necessary for us all to move on.

The new Government's policy of Local Water Done Well certainly does not provide the certainty of reform and improvement of the recently repealed legislation. However, for those of us in the water industry, it's what we have got, and the last thing we need moving forward is another 6 years of talkfests about what to do about water. Talkfests mostly involving people completely ignorant of the challenges and complexities facing our industry.

For this reason, it is essential that we all work together to deliver the best result we can within this policy framework. To this end, I have been in discussion with various Mayors around the country talking about how organisations like New Zealand Trade and Industrial Waters Forum can contribute to the conversation with local infrastructure amalgamations. One of the benefits of the previous legislation was an indication for a relative standardisation of systems and rules across the country. As part of any program moving forward, it's essential that we achieve at least some of this standardisation across the various water utility entities we end up with.

A significant amount of work has already been done! Such as developing guidelines for the water entities under the repealed legislation, but the content of these guidelines will be readily transferrable to the multi-council collaborations that will be our new water entities moving forward.

My two biggest concerns with the collaborations will be the potential for undue political influence, and the potential for "unattractive councils" to be left out in the cold.

These are the council which have massive geographical areas with limited population or natural hazards and conditions that make the operation and maintenance of water utilities seriously challenging and or any councils in Wellington!

We probably all remember the kids at school who were left until last with playground games and Captain's selection, the result was personally devastating for that child, the result will be worse for the communities affected by being left orphaned by this process.

There are also a number of local body politicians who believe it is OK for the rate payer base to subsidize the supply of water services to major industries and employers, this was even advocated by some Mayors during the 3 Waters debate as an advantage of the current system.

This is not advantageous as the people making these decisions have no idea of the consequences of what they agree to, nor the cost to the council and therefore, the ratepayer.

There are also some unscrupulous business operators who will bully local government politicians by suggesting that unless they are subsidised, they will close their doors. With standardisation and professional governance, the ability of businesses to bully the providers is significantly reduced. With standardisation, the ability to threaten local authorities in this manner becomes meaningless because the business will face the same issues wherever they go.

These are the goals we need to be setting, safe water for our communities and environmental compliance to protect our waterways, as we plot the path for local water done well!

The NZTIWF Board is endeavoring to send out newsletters on a more regular basis. If you have news from your area, articles or items of interest, or would like to contact a Board member please email: nztiwf.org@gmail.com.