

New laws for all drinking water suppliers

Recent changes to the law in New South Wales affect all drinking water suppliers. Local water utilities are drinking water suppliers. Private water suppliers are anyone who supplies drinking water in the course of a commercial undertaking, where the water is not sourced from a water utility such as a council. Water carters deliver water from a water carting vehicle in a commercial undertaking.

On 1 October 2018 new provisions came into effect to clarify the mandatory requirements of all suppliers of drinking water in NSW. The *Public Health Act 2010* and the *Public Health Regulation 2012* require drinking water suppliers to:

- **develop and comply with a quality assurance program as defined by the Regulation**
- **keep records relating to your water supply**
- **provide a copy of the quality assurance program to the local Public Health Unit.**

A quality assurance program (drinking water management system) describes the drinking water supply, risks to water quality, and actions to be taken to protect the quality of the water provided to consumers. The Public Health Regulation 2012 now defines what must be in a quality assurance program and the records that must be kept by water utilities, private water suppliers and water carters.

What does it mean for drinking water suppliers?

If you have a drinking water management system in place, are implementing your management system, providing annual review reports to the PHU, and keeping records, you should already comply with the *Public Health Act 2010* and Public Health Regulation 2012. Private water suppliers and water carters must also keep records in relation to their water supply. Local water utilities that provide water to water carters must keep records. Penalties may apply if these requirements are not followed.

What do I do now?

NSW Health encourages councils to consider how they could undertake compliance activities in relation to private water suppliers and water carters. However, NSW Health acknowledges that some councils may not be able to engage with these regulatory activities due to capacity and resourcing limitations. In order to assist with cost recovery, appropriate fees can be levied by local government for functions carried out under the *Public Health Act*.

NSW Health encourages a shared regulatory approach with local government, and can offer training, guidance and resources to local governments, private water suppliers and water carters. NSW Health will be engaging with councils to ensure appropriate support is provided to those councils that take on a regulatory role.

How can I get more information?

Further information is on the NSW Health website:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/Pages/water-utilities.aspx

www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/Pages/private-supplies.aspx or

www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/Pages/drinkwater-watercarters.aspx

For further information please contact 1300 066 055 to speak with your local Public Health Unit.