

# Principal Water/Wastewater Engineer Position Description

Business Unit	Operations
Location	Wellington
Type	Permanent, full-time
Last Updated	December 2024

## Ko wai mātou | About us

The Water Services Authority - Taumata Arowai is the water services regulator for Aotearoa New Zealand. We are committed to ensuring all communities have access to safe and reliable drinking water every day. We also have an oversight role in relation to the environmental performance of public drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater networks.

## Mō tēnei tūranga mahi | About this role

### Position Purpose

The purpose of the Principal Water/Wastewater Engineer is to take a lead role in providing expert technical advice, contract management and thought leadership on the development of engineering and infrastructure design solutions, national standards, performance measures, and other matters related to wastewater and drinking water treatment plants. As a technical expert, the role will also contribute to building capability and supporting the delivery and achievement of strategic outcomes.

The purpose of the Operations Group is to use data and insights to deliver compliance monitoring and enforcement activities, and technical advice geared to risk in regulating and overseeing the provision of safe drinking water to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Reports to	Manager Technical Advice	
Staff	Nil	
Financial Authority	Nil	
Key Relationships	<b>Internal</b> Operations Group Policy Directorate Legal Team	<b>External</b> Contracted technical experts and panels

Level: 21

	Te Rōpū Wai Senior Learning Specialist Chief Advisor Water Science	Water and wastewater network owners and operators Central Government Local Government Regional Councils Ministry for the Environment
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## Key Accountabilities

It is likely that the scope and functions of positions within Taumata Arowai will evolve over time.

### Leadership

- Lead the successful delivery of projects and initiatives including regular monitoring against objectives and milestones
- Enhance the overall capability of the team through guiding and mentoring senior advisors and advisors in their day-to-day work
- Demonstrate the tikanga and whakatauki of Taumata Arowai in their engagement with others
- Support an environment within the team that encourages innovation and collaboration
- Value and respect the diversity of contribution within the team and build an inclusive team culture
- Coach and mentor kaimahi, to build their capability and professional practice

### Strategy and Planning

- Work with the Manager, Technical Advice to develop the Technical Advice Team's work programme
- Effectively influence on domain topics through engagement and communication with senior stakeholders
- Actively support the delivery of the Operations Group strategy and business plan
- Provide timely and fit for purpose technical thought leadership, and review for projects and other matters as they arise
- Lead the development of guidance and procedures related to wastewater risk management plans and the review of these plans by the Operations group

### Technical advice and delivery

- Practically apply and maintain knowledge of engineering design of wastewater and water treatment plants, and associated standards, in New Zealand, Australia and abroad
- Support the Manager Technical Advice to procure expert services and to engage members of the drinking water technical panel, including scoping and writing statements of work, and managing the timely delivery of contract milestones and outputs

- Maintain specialist technical knowledge of advances and trends in wastewater and drinking water treatment and monitoring technology
- Provide expert technical analysis and advice into the development of regulatory instruments, guidance, procedures, training, and systems to support the regulatory framework
- Demonstrate commitment to continual development of understanding in, and application of, te ao Māori knowledge and concepts into your work
- Use specialist technical knowledge in technical assessment of risk management plans and other materials produced by external parties
- Lead, contribute to, and peer-review complex advice and reports
- Review engineering plans, specifications, and reports
- Use data and insights to inform advice and approaches
- Assist in responding to internal and external technical queries
- Keep up to date with and share technical knowledge and best practice with kaimahi | colleagues and external stakeholders
- Build capability and confidence in Māori-Crown relations, including te reo Māori and upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Develop strong and meaningful relationships with mana whenua, iwi Māori and Māori organisations
- Develop and maintain effective working relationships with internal stakeholders to achieve Taumata Arowai outcomes
- Develop and maintain effective working relationships with key external stakeholders throughout the region to achieve the outcomes of Taumata Arowai
- Work closely with central and local government across the region including other agencies to ensure an integrated and aligned approach to delivery of Taumata Arowai operational activities
- Contribute to the delivery of response activity in Taumata Arowai as needed

## Relationship Management

## Health and safety for self

- Work safely and take responsibility for keeping self and colleagues free from harm
- Report all incidents and hazards promptly
- Know what to do and follow relevant procedures or instructions in the event of an emergency
- Cooperate in implementing return to work plans
- Comply with Health, Safety and Wellbeing policies

## Ko koe tēnei | About you

### Qualifications

- Relevant engineering degree (e.g., Civil, Environmental or Chemical Engineering)
- Certified professional engineer (CPEng, Professional Engineer, or equivalent)
- Relevant post-graduate qualification/s (preferred)

### Experience

- 15+ years experience in the design and build (including construction oversight) of wastewater treatment plants (required) and drinking water treatment plants (preferred)
- 5+ years experience in management of wastewater treatment plants (preferred)
- Proven track record successfully leading large-scale engineering projects
- Experience in consenting and application of the Resource Management Act with respect to wastewater discharges to the environment
- Experience coaching and/or mentoring other professionals in a related field
- Experience in contract management
- Experience implementing risk management frameworks

### Knowledge

- Extensive and demonstrated understanding of international good-practice and norms with respect to wastewater treatment plant design, and standards related to discharge quality/quantity
- Excellent understanding of environmental regulations and standards, including the Resource Management Act
- Excellent understanding of the impacts of wastewater discharges to the environment
- Excellent understanding of the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules (required) and international regulations (preferred)
- Good understanding of the design of drinking water treatment plants
- Good understanding of regional consenting processes in New Zealand
- Good understanding of asset management and water infrastructure
- Good understanding of risk management practices in relation to wastewater (required), drinking water (required), and stormwater (preferred)

### Skills and Attributes

- Excellent project and contract management skills
- A strong ability to work collaboratively in a team environment and manage multiple priorities
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrated commitment to understanding and application of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in partnership with Māori