

**INCIDENT:** Well Contaminates Water District Systems with E. Coli  
**LOCATION:** Motueka, Australia  
**SOURCE:** The Nelson Mail  
**DATE OF INCIDENT:** 9/1/2010

About 1200 households and businesses have been boiling their tap water after low levels of contamination were found in the reticulated supply last month. The Tasman District Council issued a boil-water notice on September 17 as a precautionary measure to protect residents from any risk of waterborne illness, but lifted it yesterday after four consecutive days of clear tests. Council utilities asset engineer said the water supply will continue to be monitored. The council was unable to pinpoint the source of the E. coli, but it was likely to have come from a house which was connected to a private water source such as a bore as well as the town supply. Residents were urged to make sure they had adequate backflow prevention on their connections into the town supply. He said the level of contamination had been low, with between one and three E. coli found in 100 milliliters of water during the numerous tests. Over the weeks, the test results had been sporadic, with clear results one day and low levels the next. Parts of the water supply had been isolated and flushed with chlorine. The Nelson Marlborough Public Health Service had given the council the go-ahead to lift the boil-water notice.