

WATERCARE COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Success for those with REA / REAcap in their inclusion in the final version of the Watercare¹ Compliance Statement Policy for Producing Water and Wastewater Infrastructure. This is a milestone for REAs having these credentials recognised in the statement as having sign-off authority for design and construction monitoring to certain levels.

Watercare have had issues in the past with both design and construction standards that have been vested in them that have later been discovered to be sub-standard, with no real means of recourse to the parties responsible for the poor standards by that time. So they have compiled a policy statement defining those who can do these activities and take signatory sign-off responsibility for the work defined on the compliance statement. That individual who signs them off will then be held accountable should deficiencies within the scope of work covered be discovered at a later date. Note that the accountability is in the name of the individual whose signature is on the completed compliance statement, and cannot be in the name of a company. Whilst one individual can sign off all the work completed by a company and thus across various disciplines, the accountability rests solely with the signatory as an individual.

The EARB board has worked on this project with Watercare for a period of two years, and whilst accepted in the draft document, were later excluded in the first issue. The EARB challenged this, and with the assistance of Phil Huse-White, a REAcap in Auckland, we met with Watercare and presented our case which was accepted, and with some further consideration incorporated in the final document now in use.

So for those with a **level 6 qualification and REA**, Professional Indemnity Insurance cover and some other criteria, they will be accepted as a signatory for sign-off of design and construction monitoring of Network connections and services up to 150 NB wastewater pipework, and 100mm NB for water pipework (typically up to 10 DUE's). This category is titled as being for "Low complexity, small to medium developments".

For those with a **level 7 qualification and REAcap**, Professional Indemnity Insurance cover and some other criteria, they will be accepted as a signatory for sign-off of design and construction monitoring of Network connections and services up to 225 NB wastewater pipework, and 150mm NB for water pipework (typically up to 100 DUE's). This category is titled as being for "Low complexity, medium to large developments".

Whilst the Professional Indemnity Insurance cover may be in your employer's name, the individual is the one accountable, so if you leave that employer you may need to review how that ongoing liability is going to be maintained by you.

For those doing such work we encourage you to think very carefully about that accountability in exercising your responsibilities in a sound and considered manner consistent with the EARB Code of Ethics. This is a requirement of Watercare, and in failing to do so could result in proceedings against you, and also tarnish the name of REA's to an extent that signatory recognition might be withdrawn to the detriment of many other REA's working in this field.

For works titled "Medium to high complexity, large scale developments", those with signatory sign-off must be Chartered Professional Engineers (CPEC accredited).

¹ Watercare is an Auckland Council Organisation

Note that whilst this policy is similar in concept to Producer Statements under the Building Act, they are called Compliance Statements and pertain only to infrastructure to be vested in Watercare. There are four levels of Compliance Statement, and a CS1, CS3 and CS4 will be required for all Watercare infrastructure, except those up to 6 DUE's which are exempt compliance statement requirements but still bound by Watercare Codes of Practice:

- CS1 Design.
- CS2 Design Review done under request for Watercare.
- CS3 Construction.
- CS4 Construction Monitoring.

To our knowledge Watercare are the only local authority with such a policy at this time, however we are aware of others who are taking a watching brief having suffered at times similar issues to Watercare.

For those working in this field please search on-line under "Watercare Compliance Statement Policy" to view / read the document in full and understand the fuller requirements and conditions.

If you have REA and need to upgrade to REAcap, the please check out the EARB website: www.engineering-associates.org.nz and contact the EARB Registrar.

If you work for a local authority needing assistance in this area, we may be able to assist. Please contact the EARB Registrar.