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Ensuring Water Quality for the Future



PLENTIFUL,



CLEAN WATER

IS PART OF NEW ZEALAND'S HERITAGE

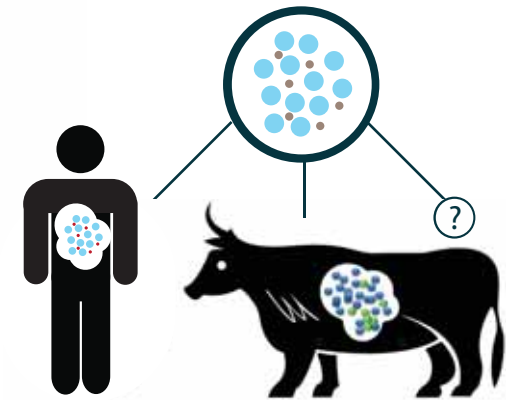
But with the resource coming under increasing pressure from droughts and land use intensification, both rural and urban, the challenge for the future is to adequately manage its quality and safety.

That's why Nelson-based research organisation, Cawthron Institute, has invested in MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING, or MST, pioneering advances in its use in local applications.

Based on DNA techniques, MST uses genetic markers found in gut bacteria and viruses of certain animal hosts, including humans, to determine what the primary contributors to a pollution issue are, and where the contamination is entering the system.

It allows scientists to determine whether faecal bacteria in

Where does faecal matter in the water come from?



water is from humans, cows, birds or other species – something which hasn't been possible with conventional testing.

Working in collaboration with leading US scientists Cawthron has adapted the generic genetic assay methods pioneered in America, for application in New Zealand.

Cawthron has already utilised the technology to help resolve marine farming and waste water contamination issues, and sees the technique being applied as part of broader catchment management programmes to better manage the health of New Zealand waterways.

For more information contact Cawthron on 03 548 2319.