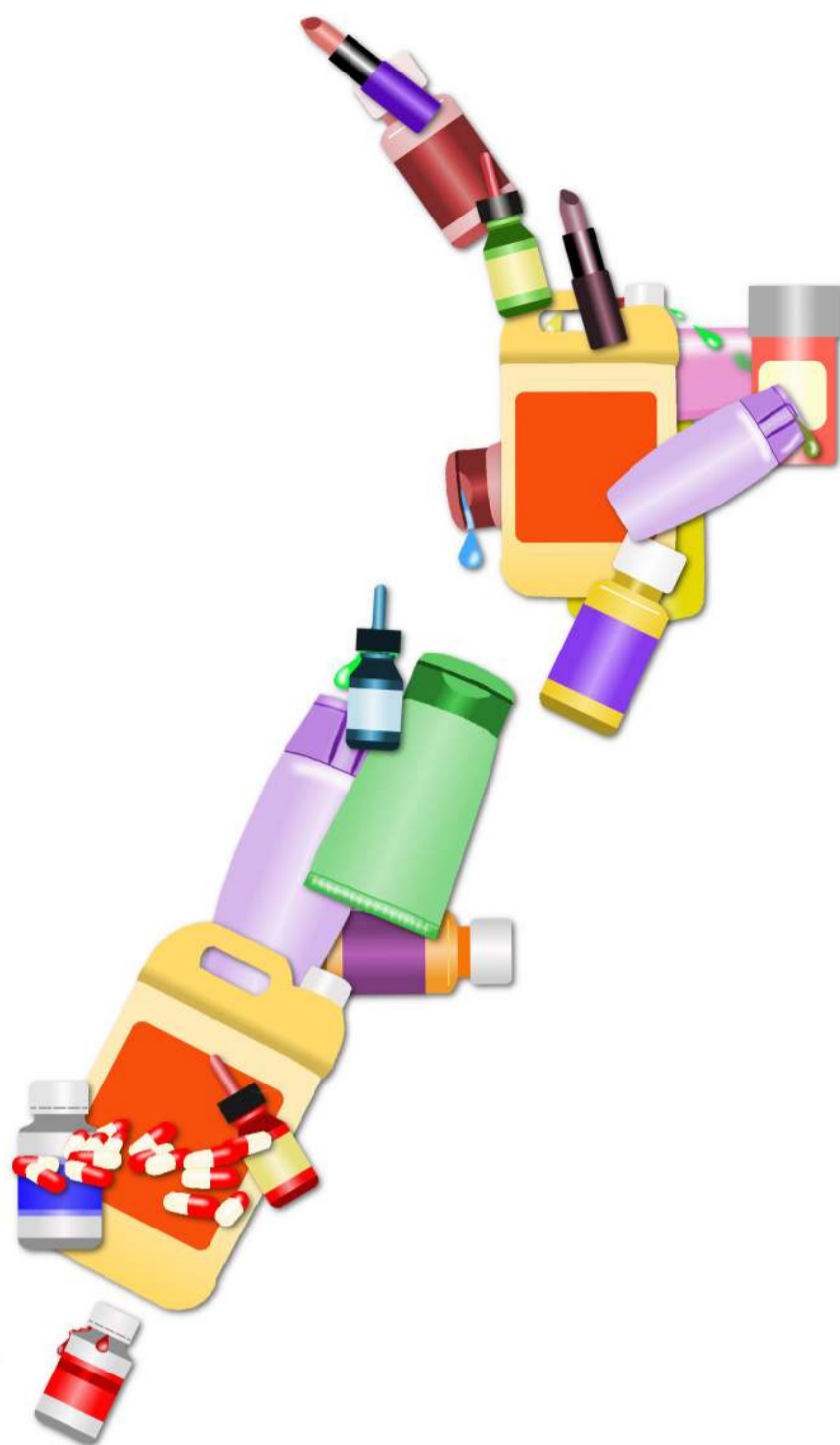


THE AOTEAROA- NEW ZEALAND STRATEGY FOR EMERGING CONTAMINANTS

PATUA TE TANIWHA KEI TAMARIKI TONU

Assail the Leviathan
whilst it is young



OUR VISION

A healthy Aotearoa-NZ safeguarded against emerging contaminants

Our Challenge

In Aotearoa-NZ, the main challenge we face with emerging contaminants is our poor understanding of them, and their potential to threaten the health and well-being of our people and unique environment.

The effects of emerging contaminants on people, ecosystems and livelihoods are being documented elsewhere in the world. However, in Aotearoa-NZ research and information about emerging contaminants is limited and un-coordinated. There are currently few studies examining their role and transport in our ecosystems, or food chains and the risk they pose to our economic and cultural wellbeing. We need to move quickly and purposefully to understand current effects and how to manage these and any future risks.

The Aotearoa-NZ Strategy for Emerging Contaminants is a collective initiative that will enable the dissemination of information to advance the understanding of the effects of emerging contaminants in Aotearoa-NZ. The Emerging Contaminants Advisory Panel is comprised of expert colleagues who are currently identifying the key environmental issues related to emerging contaminants.

Whakahaumarutia to tātou taiao i te aranga ake o ngā tāwahawaha kikino

Tiakina te Mana o Te Taiao – He Oranga Mutunga Kore

Protect the inherent authority of our environment as wellbeing for the future

We embrace a holistic environment approach that advocates respect for Aotearoa-NZ's land, freshwater, atmosphere, coastal and marine areas, including its wildlife and people.

The national strategy on emerging contaminants is important to all and aimed at collectively recognising the national significance of our environment and how new threats to its well-being are already in Aotearoa-NZ.

This strategy acknowledges that emerging contaminants may not only negatively affect our environment, but also a range of community and tāngata whenua values and aspirations. It is important that these values and aspirations are supported, and that the ability of our environment to provide for them continues over time.

OUR MISSION

Protecting Aotearoa-NZ's prosperity, heritage and health through leadership, transparency and collaboration on the threats of emerging contaminants

Nā te hautūtanga, kōrero mahuki me te mahi ngātahi ka tiakina te oranga, te taurikura me te koiora o Aotearoa whānui mai i ngā tāwahawaha kikino

OUR GOALS

Goal One

To engage with Māori and stakeholders to improve knowledge and understanding about the increasing role and negative impact of emerging contaminants in an effective and timely manner, in order to protect Aotearoa-NZ's natural environment which underpins our cultural heritage, health and prosperity.

- Ensure Māori in partnership with government are regularly informed about the activities of the Emerging Contaminants group, new research outcomes and supporting information.
- Ensure that Māori and all end-users are provided with relevant contemporary information and advice based on quality science-evidenced data.

Outcomes:

- In partnership with Māori, end users and government are engaged with, and using critical communications pathways to deliver relevant and useful advice.
- International knowledge and research is identified, collated, and communicated to Aotearoa-NZ decision-makers.
- Regular updates are provided to the community on emerging contaminants found in Aotearoa-NZ's environment, and their known effects.

Goal Two

In partnership with Māori identify research and development possibilities for improving our knowledge of the toxicity of ECs to Aotearoa-NZ's people and environment.

Ensure that Aotearoa-NZ has the people, the abilities, the resources and the tools to deliver quality science that advances the knowledge and improves the management of the risks of emerging contaminants to Aotearoa-NZ.

Outcomes:

- Emerging contaminants identification and management is prioritised for Māori and government as well as industry and other productive centres through multi-criteria decision support tools and effects-based prioritisation framework.
- A communication portal / information sharing platform is established for interested partners and agencies, with improved access across multiple information platforms (e.g. science articles, grey literature and information items).
- A specific research programme of work is established to enable the prioritising emerging contaminants research for use in resource management decisions and in aiding policy development.
- Emerging contaminants characterisation remains relevant, current and accurate via the development of a relevant and 'fit for purpose' emerging contaminants framework, which includes annual reviews and updates.

Goal Three

In partnership with Māori provide direction, leadership and support to enable Aotearoa-NZ to understand the effects of ECs on Aotearoa-NZ's people and environment.

- Provide in partnership with Māori, leadership that ensures strategic connectivity and clear communication to industry, government, and other stakeholders about issues on the topic of emerging contaminants.
- Provide direction and support through relevant best quality national and international data.

Outcomes:

- Māori are proactively involved in mitigating the negative impact of emerging contaminants on the environment through their mātauranga Māori (inherent knowledge), tikanga (customary processes) and wawata (economic, environmental, cultural and social aspirations).
- Leadership is underpinned by quality international data and targeted national emerging contaminants research.
- Launch of the Strategy and its socialisation.
- Strategic linkages and transparent communication result in a greater awareness of the risks of emerging contaminants to Aotearoa-NZ.
- Policy and management sectors develop appropriate and timely responses to manage emerging contaminants in Aotearoa-NZ.



Emerging Contaminants – A definition*

Emerging contaminants (ECs) are micro-organisms and chemicals that have historically not been considered contaminants, but have the potential to enter the environment and cause known or suspected negative impacts on the environment and/or people.

Emerging contaminants are not commonly monitored, but may be present in the environment on a global scale due to activities in our towns and cities, and our agricultural and industrial practices. In some cases, the release of the emerging chemical or micro-organism into the environment has occurred for a long time, but may not have been recognised until new detection methods were developed. In other cases, synthesis of new chemicals or changes in use and disposal of existing chemicals can create new sources of emerging contaminants.

* This definition is derived from the U.S. Geological Survey web site <https://toxics.usgs.gov/investigations/cec/index.ph>

Disclaimer

All members of the advisory panel participate in this project as individuals with the advice, opinions, or viewpoints given in their personal capacity only, and should not be considered either as endorsed by, nor in any way representative of the views, policies, or strategies of their employers, or any organisation, government agency, business, trust, iwi, hapū or group to which they are affiliated.

* Strategy was developed by the Emerging Contaminant Advisory Panel. MBIE contract: CAWX1708