

## Abstract

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## Title

Restructuring New Zealand's cyanobacteria management frameworks for drinking-water supplies

## Description

Toxin-producing cyanobacteria pose an escalating threat to the safety of drinking-water supplies globally, as well as in New Zealand. The recent development/revision of World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines for cyanotoxins (anatoxins, cylindrospermopsins, microcystins and saxitoxins) provides water managers with robust guidance on safe levels of cyanotoxins in drinking-water supplies. However, regional differences in cyanobacteria and cyanotoxin occurrence require independent risk management strategies to be developed for different locations. Over the past two years, New Zealand's cyanobacteria risk management frameworks were restructured around the new WHO cyanotoxin guideline values, current knowledge on New Zealand cyanobacteria and the need to manage the potential risk posed by benthic cyanobacteria. To develop cyanobacteria thresholds and management strategies relevant for New Zealand freshwaters we drew on multiple studies conducted over the past decade. During this special session we will present information on the steps taken to restructure New Zealand's cyanobacteria management frameworks and describe how scientific knowledge on toxic cyanobacteria was weaved into the management strategies.