Provision of Drinking water: Alcohol Licensing v Drinking Water Safety

Sometimes these two issues are confused.

There are two legislative processes at work here, one is the drinking water *safety* issues which are dealt with by the NMDHB Public Health Drinking Water team. This is a requirement under Health (Drinking Water Amendment) Act legislation. They may require completion of a form called a WC03.

Then there is the Alcohol Licensing issue which is dealt with by the Council and NMDHB Public Health Alcohol Licensing team under the Alcohol Licensing legislation.

While we, the drinking water team, work very closely in partnership with the alcohol licensing team, we are unable to undertake each other's work as that is dictated by statute.
Under the alcohol licensing legislation there is a host responsibility to provide free drinking water. This responsibility lies with each 'licensed premises'. This may be the festival/event organiser or each individual stall holder that is providing alcohol, depending on the type of alcohol licence application.
That is the way that legislation has been drafted. From 18/12/13 when the new alcohol legislation came into force, there has been a *legal duty* to provide *free* drinking water when selling alcohol.

The *safety* of the water that is provided (whether voluntarily or by requirement under licensing duties) is a matter that is dealt with by the drinking water team (us). This is a separate issue. Under the Drinking water legislation, current interpretation holds that it is the event *organiser* who is responsible for the *safety* of the drinking water, not each stall holder.

We work very closely with the alcohol licensing team and both teams are aware of the duties under each legislation. That is why the alcohol licensing team inform organisers when they are processing an alcohol application, just in case the organiser hasn't already contacted us directly. But they are not legally permitted to undertake the assessment of the safety of the drinking water. And vice versa.

I trust this helps in understanding the process.