

TAPPED IN

Bringing you the latest news, events and more from Watercare

Autumn 2026

Latest news



What it takes to keep Auckland flowing

Autumn in Auckland is in full swing. Schools are in session, workplaces are busy and the roads have settled into their familiar rhythm. There is still enough warmth to draw people outdoors, but the year is properly underway.

With the city fully in gear, Auckland relies on everyday essentials to keep it running smoothly. Water is one of them. Most of us rarely think about it until something disrupts the flow. Yet behind every morning shower, café opening and load of washing is a vast system quietly doing exactly what it needs to do.

Every day, we supply around 440 million litres of drinking water* and collect more than 400 million litres of wastewater**. Together, the pipes that carry Auckland's drinking water and wastewater stretch almost the distance from Auckland to London.

That journey begins long before water reaches your home or business. Drinking water comes from a mix of sources, including dams, rivers and groundwater. It is collected, treated, tested and monitored before moving through the network to the homes, schools and workplaces that rely on it. Treatment depends on the source, but the goal is always the same: safe, reliable water.

Then comes the other half of the story. Wastewater from sinks, showers and toilets travels through a separate network to treatment plants, where it is treated to a high standard prior to being released back into the environment. This protects public health, beaches, waterways and the wider environment, while also reducing the risk of blockages, smells and wet-weather overflows.

Keeping everything flowing takes constant care. Assets must be maintained and renewed, networks need to perform in all conditions, and new technology helps us detect issues earlier and respond faster. As Auckland grows, the system has to grow with it.

That is why we have more than 1,000 projects planned as part of our \$13.8 billion, 10-year business plan – an average investment of about \$3.8 million a day. Around half goes into replacing or upgrading existing assets, with the remainder expanding the network to support growth.

Some of this work is visible. Much of it happens out of sight. But all of it matters – helping keep safe drinking water flowing, wastewater services reliable and Auckland ready for the people, homes and businesses that depend on them every day, now and in the future.

Watercare serves 1.7 million people, from Wellsford to Tuakau:

440 million litres of drinking water supplied daily*

400+ million litres of wastewater collected daily**

37 treatment plants (18 water, 19 wastewater)

20,000km+ of water and wastewater pipes

1,900 water and wastewater quality tests carried out daily

\$13.8 billion investment over 10 years (1,000+ projects)

What's happening across Auckland

More than 100 projects are currently underway across Auckland as part of our \$13.8 billion, 10-year infrastructure programme. Discover what's happening in your backyard:

North



Waiwera and Hatfields Beach

Designed to support long-term growth and protect the Waiwera Estuary, a \$45 million programme is underway to upgrade wastewater and water networks in Waiwera.

Work includes desludging the two oxidation ponds at the Waiwera Wastewater Treatment Plant. These are being repurposed as storage ponds for a new pump station, enabling wastewater to be transferred to the Army Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant for a higher standard of treatment.

Together, the upgrades will improve water quality and help protect this valued coastal environment as the area grows. The Waiwera water and wastewater upgrades are on track for completion by the end of this year.



Central



Herne Bay

Enabling works are underway for the Herne Bay Collector, a 1.5-kilometre, 2.1-metre-diameter tunnel that will divert wastewater and stormwater to the Māngere Wastewater Treatment Plant via the Central Interceptor.

Part of our wider network improvement programme, the Herne Bay Collector will significantly reduce overflows into the environment. This will mean cleaner urban streams and waterways, and better water quality at beaches around Herne Bay.

The project will also provide extra capacity to support growth across the western isthmus. Construction is scheduled for completion in late 2028, with the Central Interceptor due to be completed later this year.



West



West and Upper Harbour

North Harbour 2 is a 33-kilometre pipeline between Titirangi and Albany, designed to transport treated drinking water from Auckland's western supply area to reservoirs in Upper Harbour and Albany.

The project will add a second watermain alongside North Harbour 1, which is nearing capacity and offers limited flexibility for maintenance. Once complete, North Harbour 2 will provide an additional supply route, supporting housing growth and strengthening the resilience of Auckland's water network and environment.

Although the full pipeline is not expected to be operational until 2034, early works are underway at the project's most critical section — the Upper Harbour (Greenhithe) Bridge. Investigative drilling has been completed to prepare for installation, with pipeline and valve chamber works planned for later this year. These early works are progressing well, with a strong focus on minimising disruption to the local community and adjacent cycleway.



East



Panmure and Mt Wellington

In the first half of 2026 we're completing upgrades to the electrical systems and pipework at the Panmure Basin Pump Station, along with bringing a new wastewater pipeline into service to divert flows directly to the Eastern Interceptor at Ireland Road in Panmure.

This \$4.2 million investment replaces ageing infrastructure that had reached the end of its working life. When the upgrades come online in May, they'll improve network resilience and help reduce wet weather overflows into the Panmure Basin and surrounding area.

The upgraded pump station is expected to be operational next month, delivering immediate environmental and maintenance benefits.



South



Pukekohe and Paerata

In south Auckland, a \$98 million project is in its early stages to strengthen wastewater infrastructure for future growth in Pukekohe and Paerata.

The project includes a new pump station on Isabella Drive and a four-kilometre pipeline running through Franklin Road, Stadium Drive and Station Road.

Scheduled for completion in 2028, the new pump station and pipeline will divert water flows away from the existing Cape Hill and Isabella pump stations, allowing both to be safely decommissioned.



Key benefits



Build resilience



Protect environment



Cater for growth



Improve treatment process

In focus

Four ways to become waterwise this season



📷 Celebrating the Central Interceptor

Get ready for an up-close look at the Central Interceptor through a striking exhibition of images spanning six years.

On display from 29 May to 30 June at Point Erin Park / Te Oka as part of the Auckland Festival of Photography, this outdoor exhibition invites Aucklanders to experience the Central Interceptor in a new way. Through Simon Runting's photographs, explore the scale and story of one of the city's biggest infrastructure projects – and the role it will play in reducing wastewater overflows and supporting Auckland for generations to come. Read more at watercare.co.nz/central-interceptor.



📍 Wonder Wai Prize Draw

Got curious minds at home? Kids of all ages can enter our prize draw and be in to win a \$100 Prezzy card.

To take part, simply complete one of three Wonder Wai activity sheets and send us a photo of the finished work. Every valid entry goes into the draw. Download the activity sheets at watercare.co.nz/wonderwai.

👤 Water education lessons for kids

Kids can discover where Auckland's water comes from, what happens after it goes down the drain, and why every drop matters through nine free water education lessons designed for schools.

Fun, hands-on and curriculum-linked, the lessons bring Auckland's water story to life in the classroom and beyond. They're already a hit with kids and teachers across the city, and spaces are available in terms 3 and 4. Book a free lesson at watercare.co.nz/water-education.



📊 A smarter, stronger wastewater network

Real-time insight is changing how we manage wastewater.

With close to 5,000 smart sensors now in place, Watercare can monitor much of the network in real time, helping detect issues earlier and respond before some problems become bigger disruptions. The sensors are part of our Smart Network Programme, using digital technology and AI to support a more proactive, reliable wastewater service for Auckland.



In the know

Day in the life of project manager Isileli Aholelei

Delivering water and wastewater infrastructure takes more than pipes, plans and construction schedules. It takes teamwork, coordination and trust — skills project manager, Isileli Aholelei, brings to work every day.

As part of our capital delivery team, Isileli manages the design and construction of projects that help keep Auckland running.

“It’s a bit of contract management — fine-tuning the details to make sure everything necessary is included,” he says. “There’s a lot of stakeholder management, both internal and external. It’s my job to make sure everything runs smoothly.”

For Isileli, the variety is one of the best parts of the role, from balancing different stages of a project to building strong relationships with contractors and colleagues.

His Watercare story began as a summer intern while studying mechanical engineering. He went on to complete the graduate programme before stepping into his current role.

“The people are what brought me back,” Isileli says. “I’ve been lucky to have really good managers and deliver rewarding work here.”

It’s work most Aucklanders may never see up close, but they rely on it every day whenever they turn on a tap, take a shower or flush the loo.

To read more about Isileli’s story, explore current opportunities and meet more of the people helping keep Auckland flowing, visit watercare.co.nz/careers.



10 ways to be water and energy wise

Showers and laundry can make up a large share of household water use, so small changes can save water, power and money.



Fix dripping taps and hidden leaks



Keep showers shorter



Use a water-efficient showerhead



Run full loads only



Dry clothes by hanging outside when possible



Turn taps off while brushing teeth



Use cold washes where possible



Sign up for e-billing



Be thoughtful about what goes down drains



Understand where water use is highest in the home

Help us lift Auckland’s water know-how

Take our quick 5-minute survey and help us better understand what Aucklanders know about water, where there are gaps, and what support would make the biggest difference.

Your feedback will help shape future water education resources and water efficiency support for homes, schools and communities across the city.

As a thank you, you’ll go in the draw to win one of five \$100 Prezzy Cards. Visit watercare.co.nz/tappedin.

KEEP IN TOUCH

There are plenty of ways to connect with us. Visit watercare.co.nz/contact or follow us on socials



*Calculated based on 440,000 cubic metres of water per day (m3/day) on average across the year to Auckland, derived from a range of sources. **Typical average during the year across the network.