South-West Wastewater Servicing Scheme

June 2025



Background

- Watercare had a plan for wastewater servicing of the Southwest communities of Kingseat, Clarks Beach, Glenbrook Beach and Waiuku. As part of this, a new wastewater discharge consent at Clarks Beach for servicing a population equivalent (PE) of 30,000 was granted in 2018.
- Work is currently underway to build the new outfall and undertake upgrades at our Clarks Beach WWTP.
- Watercare identified and acquired 372 Glenbrook Beach Road as the preferred location for a new centralised wastewater treatment plant as part of this scheme and initiated a Notice of Requirement (NoR) process to designate this land for use as a wastewater treatment plant.
- In May 2024, the Independent Commissioners appointed by Auckland Council issued their recommendation that Watercare withdraw its NoR.
- Watercare withdrew its NoR given the community sentiment and the position of the Independent Commissioners and moved this project back to the planning phase.



Work over the past 12 months

Since moving this project back to the planning phase, the following activities have taken place:

- July December 2024: Development of the long list options.
- February 2025: Community drop-in sessions in Waiuku, Clarks Beach and Glenbrook Beach to gather feedback on the long list options.
- March 2025: Assessment of the long list options to produce a short list of four options.
- March 2025: Community drop-in sessions in Waiuku, Clarks Beach and Glenbrook Beach to gather feedback on the short list options.
- April 2025: Further refinement and assessment of the short list options, including developing cost estimates.
- May 2025: Briefing Watercare's Asset Management Committee and Board of Directors on the preferred solution.

We are now here take you through the outcome of the reassessment of options and the identified preferred option and to gather any final feedback before we action next steps. This preferred option has been endorsed in principle by Watercare's Asset Management Committee and Board of Directors.





Reassessment of options

Over the past 12 months Watercare has assessed eight options across five locations. These options considered utilising these locations for a centralised WWTP and as decentralised schemes.

| Option | Site |
|--------|--|
| 1 | Centralised WWTP at the Glenbrook Beach Rd site |
| 2A | Centralised WWTP at the existing Waiuku WWTP site |
| 2B | Centralised WWTP at the Waiuku North site |
| 2C | Split WWTP between the existing Waiuku WWTP site and the Waiuku East site |
| 2D | Split WWTP between the Waiuku North and the Waiuku East sites |
| 3 | Decentralised WWTPs at the existing Clarks Beach and Waiuku WWTP sites |
| 4 | Decentralised WWTPs at the existing Clarks Beach WWTP site and the Glenbrook Beach Rd site |
| 5 | Decentralised WWTPs at the Glenbrook Beach Rd site and the existing Waiuku WWTP site |





Preferred option

The preferred option is a decentralised scheme utilising our existing Clarks Beach and Waiuku sites that will service up to 29,000 PE (Option 3). This scheme considers:

- A more permanent Clarks Beach WWTP with capacity up to 9,000 PE.
- A new Waiuku WWTP with capacity up to 20,000 PE.
- A treated effluent conveyance pipeline running from Waiuku to Clarks Beach.
- An interim upgrade of the existing Waiuku WWTP to achieve compliance with the current conditions while we seek to alter the discharge consent (expires in 2027) to meet current timeframes (completion of the scheme is currently forecast for 2031). This will have the added benefit of supporting the enablement of the main upgrade.

Based on the current Auckland Council population growth scenario (AGS23v1.1) it is projected that the combined population will not reach 29,000 before 2050.





Long-term centralised option

Beyond a population of 30,000 people, Watercare has the option to transition to a centralised wastewater treatment plant at the Waiuku site (Option 2A). This is dependent on population growth. This would consider:

- Further upgrades of Waiuku WWTP.
- A pipeline to convey wastewater from Clarks Beach to Waiuku.
- Decommissioning of Clarks Beach WWTP.

Option 2A was the best scoring through the multi-criteria analysis when considering the long term, however in the short to medium term, Option 3 is more cost effective.



Benefits of this approach

- It better aligns with updated population growth projections, which are slower than previously anticipated.
- It makes use of what has already been built at Clarks Beach, avoiding starting from scratch.
- Its more aligned with feedback from the community and independent commissioners and requires less new consenting.
- It reduces our spend right now, aligning better with projections for when growth will occur.
- It future proofs the area with room to scale up as needed.



Next steps

Pending any final feedback through this Town Hall, mana whenua engagement and elected member briefings, Watercare is planning to commence the:

- construction of permanent tidal storage at the existing Clarks Beach WWTP site and making this plant more permanent,
- interim upgrade of the existing Waiuku WWTP, and
- design of the new Waiuku WWTP and design of the conveyance infrastructure.

In addition to these steps, Watercare will be looking into renewing and upgrading the local wastewater networks in Clarks Beach, Glenbrook Beach and Waiuku to meet current and future needs.



Timeline



Questions?

