

TAPPED IN

Bringing you news, updates and information from Watercare



The final spark - the last section of a 31-kilometre pipe is put in place for the Hūnua 4 Watermain project.

Our plan for the next 20 years

Living in the 'World's Most Liveable City', we're the envy of millions of people around the world – and not just because of the freedom we're enjoying while we keep Covid-19 at bay. We have beautiful harbours, great beaches, spectacular native bush and a unique volcanic landscape that creates endless opportunities for exploring.

Still, Auckland is facing some hefty challenges – our population is steadily growing, much of our infrastructure is ageing and we have the increasing impacts of climate change.

We plan far into the future to make sure we can manage these challenges so that you continue to enjoy top-quality drinking water and can be confident your wastewater is safely treated and disposed of.

We will be spending about \$18.5 billion over the next 20 years – by far our biggest investment programme to date – to build and maintain our region's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Catering for growth

Auckland is expected to grow by almost half a million people over the next 20 years, taking our population close to 2.2 million. During this time, we will invest \$8.26 billion to ensure we are able to serve everyone living in our city and allow business and industry to thrive.

Our growth-related infrastructure is paid for with borrowings and the money we collect in Infrastructure Growth Charges so that our existing customers are not subsidising our future ones.

Ensuring service reliability

To make sure you continue to receive safe and reliable services, we need a water and wastewater network that can withstand disruptions and be resilient to changing conditions. We'll be spending \$10.2 billion replacing and upgrading critical infrastructure to ensure our services are reliable and protect the environment in which we operate.

The impact of climate change

As your provider of water and wastewater services, it's our duty to consider the environment in every decision we make. We are already on the journey to reducing our carbon footprint, with our goal to be a 'net zero emission' company by 2050.

When we build new infrastructure, things like sea-level rises are factored in at the design stage. And with construction responsible for a huge chunk of the world's carbon emissions, we're exploring innovative ways to reduce our construction-related emissions. Upgrades at our facilities will also reduce emissions from our daily operations.

Learn more about some of the key projects planned over the next 20 years in this edition of *Tapped In*.

FAST FACTS

Over the next 20 years...



Auckland will grow by **29 per cent**, adding another **476,000 people** to our current population.

During this time, we plan to invest about **\$2.5m** each day on water and wastewater infrastructure.



What's happening across Auckland

Water treatment



Across Auckland, our water treatment plants produce high-quality drinking water for our customers. Our programme of works includes building a new water treatment plant and replacing an existing one.

Waikato A Water Treatment Plant

The new plant will treat additional water from the Waikato River to cater for Auckland's water supply needs over the next 15–20 years.

Huia Water Treatment Plant

Replacing the ageing plant in Huia and building two new reservoirs will add resilience, increase production and storage capacity. This will help us provide better security of supply to our customers.

Wastewater treatment



Our Māngere and Rosedale wastewater treatment plants treat more than 90 per cent of our customers' wastewater. These plants require ongoing upgrades to ensure high-quality treated wastewater can safely be released back into the environment, while also reducing emissions and waste.

Māngere Wastewater Treatment Plant

A major programme of upgrades to improve treatment processes will ensure a high quality of treated wastewater is discharged into the Manukau Harbour. These upgrades will also reduce emissions and waste.

Rosedale Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Rosedale plant will also undergo a range of process and facility upgrades to ensure that treated wastewater discharge is of a high quality and will not impact the quality of the waterways.

Water pipes

Over 9000 kilometres of water pipes connect our customers to treated water supply. To continue supplying safe drinking water to households, we're carrying out a significant watermain renewal programme and building new watermains.

Waikato 2 Watermain

The new pipe will allow for growth and add resilience to the existing Waikato 1 Watermain.

North Harbour 2 Watermain

The new pipe will service growing communities in the west and north, as well as provide increased capacity.

Wastewater pipes

Around 8000 kilometres of pipes carry wastewater to our wastewater treatment plants. Over the next 20 years, we're upgrading our wastewater network to ensure service reliability for customers and to reduce blockages and overflows.

Central Interceptor

The 14.7-kilometre-long wastewater tunnel will run underground from Grey Lynn to our Māngere Wastewater Treatment Plant. It will provide additional capacity and reduce overflows, helping to keep wastewater from our beaches.

Northern Interceptor

The wastewater pipeline will help divert flows from Māngere to Rosedale and balance capacity across our treatment plants, supporting growth across Auckland.

Key benefits



Build resilience



Protect environment



Cater for growth



Improve treatment process



Tackle climate change

What's happening in your area

Central



Ponsonby reservoirs

A planned upgrade will provide additional resilience to the city centre's supply zone.

Western Isthmus water quality programme

The 10-year programme will improve the water quality in urban streams and our harbours. It is jointly funded by Watercare and Auckland Council's Healthy Waters.

Wastewater servicing

We are working with Tāmaki Regeneration Company and Kāinga Ora to replace old wastewater pipes, reduce wet-weather overflows and carry out necessary upgrades to provide for growth in Mt Roskill, Oranga and Ōwairaka.

Newmarket Gully

This project will provide additional wastewater capacity to mitigate the impact of combined sewer overflows.

Khyber 2 Reservoir

Reinstatement of this reservoir will increase the water storage within the central region and help manage peak demand.

Wastewater servicing

We are working with Tāmaki Regeneration Company and Kāinga Ora to replace old wastewater pipes, reduce wet-weather overflows and undertake essential upgrades to provide for growth in Tāmaki, Glen Innes and Panmure.



If you'd like more details, you can find our full [Asset Management Plan 2021-2041](#) on our website.

Meet our new canine recruits

We've got high hopes for the newest additions to the Watercare team – our leak detection pups-in-training.

Leak detection dogs have proved successful overseas as a way of sniffing out hidden leaks in the water network. They're already used in the UK, USA and in Australia, and we hope our four-legged friends will become permanent members of the Watercare team, helping us by finding leaks so we can fix them.

We adopted our now six-month-old collie cross-breed siblings, who we've named Piper, Awa and Flo (as pictured above), through Auckland Puppy Rescue and found them foster homes within the Watercare family.

Currently they're now undergoing intensive foundation training five days a week and are already proving to be fast learners willing to put in the grunt work.

Once they've mastered the basics, they'll be learning how to sniff out chlorine gas to find the location of a leak in our water pipes. While the smell would be undetectable to us humans, dogs have incredible scent receptors which make them ideal for this type of detective work.

If the puppies graduate from training at the end of the year, they will be deployed in the field to help our crews pinpoint the location of water leaks – particularly in areas where loud noises and vibration make acoustic leak detection problematic.

In the meantime, our proactive acoustic leak detection programme continues. In the past year, we've surveyed about 5500 kilometres of our 9000-kilometre network, which has helped us to prevent the loss of more than 7 million litres of water a day.



Remember to flush your taps

The Ministry of Health recommends flushing a large glass of water from your drinking water tap each morning before using any water. This removes any metals that may have dissolved from plumbing fittings. New Zealand's water can be slightly acidic, and can dissolve metals. If water stays for several hours in your household pipes, it can dissolve heavy metals such as lead or copper. Small amounts of these metals may then enter your water supply.

The Ministry of Health recommends this simple precaution for all households on both public and private water supplies. The health risk is small, but a build-up of heavy metals in your body can cause health problems. We continue to meet the requirements of the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand 2005 (revised 2018) and deliver safe water.

For more information, visit watercare.co.nz and search for 'drinking water quality'.



Colouring competition for kids

Keep the kids entertained with our 'conserving water' colouring competition. The competition is open to anyone aged 12 or under, living in Auckland. Send your completed colouring sheet, along with your name, age and email address, to competition@water.co.nz for a chance to win one of three prizes!*

Scan the QR code on the right or go to waterforlife.org.nz/kids-stuff to download the colouring sheet.

* T&Cs apply. See online for details.



Price change reminder

From 1 July, our water and wastewater prices will increase by about 7 per cent. This works out to be around \$1.50 per week for average households.

For more information, visit watercare.co.nz and search for 'our charges'.



KEEP IN TOUCH

Tapped In is your newsletter. If you would like to talk to us about any stories from this edition or your ideas for future issues, we'd love to hear from you. To get in touch, please email our communications team at communications@water.co.nz.

You can learn more about what we do at www.watercare.co.nz.