

# Dunkirk Road wastewater upgrades

Catering for population growth by improving your wastewater services



During the past 18 months, Watercare have been working on the corner of Dunkirk Road and Tangaroa Street to construct a new pump station and along Dunkirk Road installing a new gravity pipeline. This additional infrastructure will enable further development and service the growing population while reducing the risk of overflows into the Tāmaki River.

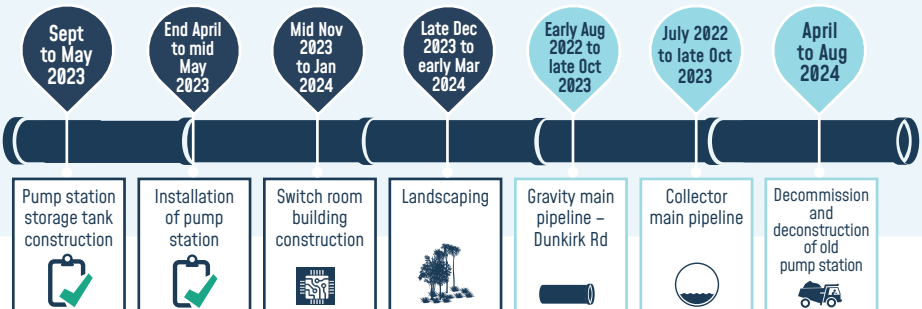
Apart from short delays mostly created by the inclement wet weather, the project is largely on track to achieve the programme with October 2024 as the expected completion date.

**Stage 2** of the project which was initially estimated to start in 2026 has now been bought forward due to the increase of residential construction and the subsequent need for servicing infrastructure.

This project includes the extension of the new gravity pipeline on Dunkirk Road and a connection pipeline to the Eastern Interceptor.

We will keep you updated as this project progresses.

Timeframe June 2022 to September 2024





## Farewell Dominic Wakeland...

After one and half years on the Watercare Dunkirk Pump Station project, our wonderful

Fulton Hogan project manager, Dominic Wakeland,

(affectionately known as Dom) has hung up his hard hat for the last time in Panmure.

He and his partner of several years, will be travelling for seven weeks visiting friends and family before returning to Auckland on different Watercare projects.

Manchester United supporter, Dom was bought up in council house in Fallowfield, Manchester. “My mum is scary and made sure my older sister and I behaved ourselves and kept out of trouble”. After studying engineering for four years at the University of Leeds, Dom’s first job was the headquarters building for Scottish Power in Glasgow. “I had never been to Glasgow and was a bit unsure of what to expect, but I loved it. The people were great and so welcoming. I really enjoyed my time there”.

Dom, British born of Jamaican / Italian descent and his French / Taiwanese girlfriend Nolwenn, met on his last civil engineering job building a nuclear power station in the UK. They came to New Zealand in 2020, just before covid lockdown.

“I always wanted to travel with my engineering skills and was seeking a work / life balance” said Dom. Hearing good things from several mates who had been to New Zealand, helped influence his decision.

“I had only ever lived in the UK so this was a big thing for me”.

After interviewing with seven different companies, Dom chose Fulton Hogan, partly because of the laidback atmosphere. “Being British I went to my interview in a suit. As soon as I walked in the room, I got a ribbing...that’s my kind of company, one where everyone is up for some good banter”. His first role was as a project engineer on the Pukekohe East Reservoir. After only three months he was promoted to acting Project Manager at the Pukekutu Island pump station before completing the first stage of the Hibiscus Coast pump station. “I have now been with the current team for about 2 ½ years. It will be sad to move on, but I tend to get itchy feet after about two years”.

Outside of work, Dom’s main interest is surfing. He and a mate would go to Cornwall on holiday. “I had no idea what I was doing but when I accidentally caught a wave, I was hooked. It was the best feeling”. This was another draw to NZ, ‘the outdoorsy lifestyle’. Most weekends Dom is surfing at one of several places from Piha to Raglan however his favourite has got to be Te Arai near Mangawhai.

Although never having worked so intertwined within a community before, Dom was impressed how supportive and understanding the neighbourhood has been. “They didn’t make it easy, but they certainly helped us progress with what we needed to do. Thank you”.



## ...hello Pierre Horn

Just over a year ago, Pierre Horn, the new project manager for the Dunkirk Pump Station project and his family arrived in New Zealand from South Africa.

“Right in the middle of Winter. It took some acclimatisation. I don’t love the weather,” says Pierre.

A week later he was on-site at Dunkirk as the project engineer. Being with this project for so long has enabled Pierre to have a great overview of the work, making the transition into project manager much easier. “It’s been great so far. The best thing about working with Fulton Hogan is the people. They’re a great bunch. I could probably get a better salary at a different company, but the environment is not as supportive, which is important to me”.

The international move was initiated with the future in mind. “South Africa has some big issues and the future for my kids didn’t look bright. If we stayed, it is likely the girls would leave as soon as they could. At least here they are more likely to stick around to look after us when we retire”. Pierre and his wife of 10 years have two girls, aged (7) and (5).

The construction industry in South Africa is tough with fierce competition with the constant reminder of racism. “It’s more relaxed here and there are more career opportunities”.

Pierre started his career intending to study architecture however changed direction after a gap year in construction. “My parents wanted

me to study accounting like the rest of the family, but I wasn’t up for being contained within a small office”. Now 14 years since completing studies, his experience includes concrete retaining structures, wastewater treatment plants, pipelines, roadworks, and electrical services. To date, his most memorable project was the upgrade of a sewer treatment plant in Port Elizabeth. The challenges included the integration of old and new works, concrete structures and making calls as you progressed, “planning only took you 50% of the way and you could guarantee that there was always something unexpected and unplanned for that would arise”.

Civil engineering is a great option for a man who loves the outdoors and can’t sit still. “Every day is different. You could be doing the same design, but the build will be different. When you’ve completed there is something tangible to show for it. I like the idea that I can say to my kids, Dad helped build that”.

Pierre’s aspirations for this project are clear, “deliver on time at a quality that if it was my money would I be happy with it. This includes no shortcuts.”. Pierre tries to instill this value into the younger team members. “When you walk away, are you should be happy to put your name on it?” I love the fact that just by doing your job, you are assisting the community by building infrastructure.

...and one thing he loves about New Zealand? Long walks on the beach with his children, knowing they are safe!

### Milestones achieved

The project milestones achieved to date include:

- Installation and backfill of wastewater storage tanks with total volume 700,000L.
- 630 metres of the required 900 metres of gravity main installed.
- 180 metres of the required 500 metres of collector main installed.
- 17 out the required 32 laterals installed.



*The project team*



*The road sealing team*

### Tell us how you really feel!



We want to make sure that we are continually improving how we deliver our projects to better benefit Auckland's communities.

Please let us know what we did well and where we can learn to do better. Your feedback and opinions matter to us.

Take the survey online:

[www.watercare.co.nz/aucklandprojects](http://www.watercare.co.nz/aucklandprojects)



### Congratulations to our Prezzy card winner!

Watercare recently held a Voice of the Community survey for the Dunkirk project. These surveys enable us to better understand the wider community view about the good things and the things we need to improve.

The incentive of \$100 Prezzy card was offered to all those who provided feedback. The lucky community member was Kendal Tobeck who was thankful to receive her winnings.

### Keep in touch

*Want to find out more about this project?*

Visit [www.watercare.co.nz/dunkirk](http://www.watercare.co.nz/dunkirk)

*If you have any questions about this project reach out to us at [dunkirk@water.co.nz](mailto:dunkirk@water.co.nz)*