

Papakura water supply Hays Creek Dam

Improving the resilience of Auckland's water supply



Watercare's Hays Creek Dam.

Hays Creek Dam is back in service!

The reinstatement of Hays Creek Dam is playing a vital role in boosting Auckland's water supply as we recover from last year's record-breaking drought. While the dam is a small water source in comparison to some of the other dams, it is still a vital part of Auckland's water network. The dam had been out of service since 2005, but its reinstatement was always on our agenda. When last year's drought saw dams drop below 50 per cent for the first time in 25 years, getting the dam back into service was accelerated as part of our response.

How does it operate?

As with all our dams, the levels will noticeably fluctuate under normal operation. This fluctuation is influenced by customer usage, the management of our water resources and of course rainfall and weather patterns. Typically over winter months the dam will recharge and refill as the weather tends to be wetter and customer usage is lower. During summer months, there can be less rainfall and demand can often be higher so you will likely see the dam levels fall.

Raw water from the dam flows to the new temporary Papakura Treatment Plant. It can provide up to six million litres a day since it went into service in February this year. Later this year the completion of a permanent treatment plant will lift peak production to 12 million litres per day. Both plants use technologies to treat the water to the highest standard. Water from this treatment plant services the Papakura area, but due to our integrated water network, we balance the water with other sources from our Ardmore and Waikato plants as needed.

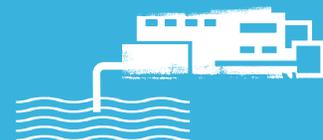
Monitoring the dam

We have a specialised team that looks after our dams and catchments. They visit the site regularly to keep an eye on how the dam is operating, monitor water quality and the surrounding dam catchment. We have gauges installed in the dam to measure dam levels remotely so that we can efficiently monitor and operate the delivery of water to the area.

Fast facts

The dam was built in
1967

Connects to the
Papakura
Water Treatment Plant



currently processes
up to
**6 million litres
of water a day**

The dam can hold
1.1 billion litres

that's 444
Olympic-sized
swimming pools

Dam levels fluctuate
due to
weather and usage

