

# Update on Eastern Isthmus Programme and Hobson Bay Water Quality Issues

August 2021

# Roles and responsibilities

## **Auckland Council (Environmental Health and Regulatory)**

- Environmental compliance and monitoring
- Public health advice and signage at streams and beaches
- Compliance and monitoring of network discharge consents

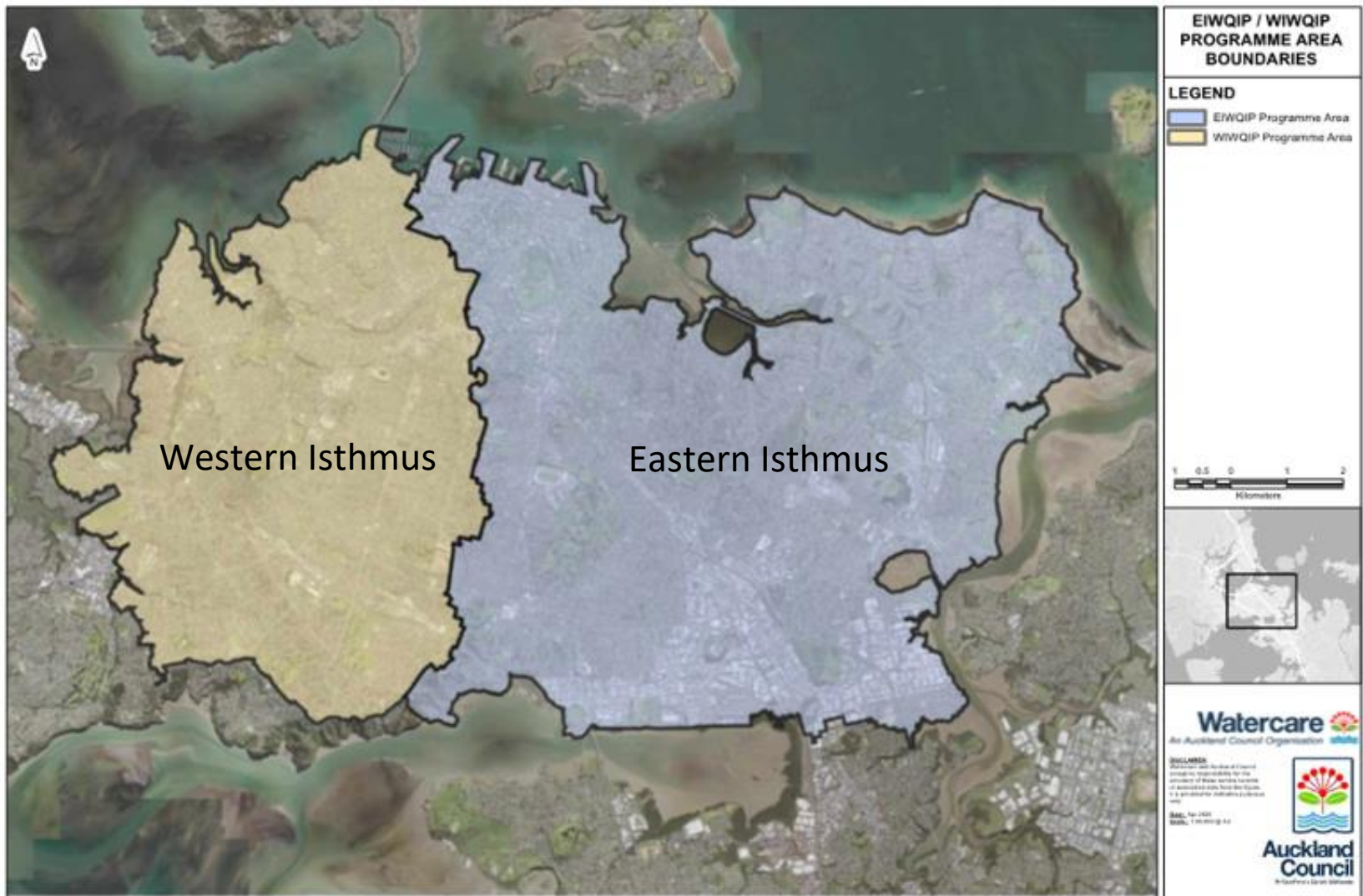
## **Auckland Council (Healthy Waters)**

- Lead the safe networks investigation programme – removing wastewater contamination entering the stormwater network
- Regular (monthly/3 monthly) reporting to stakeholders outlining current contaminant issues and actions undertaken
- Separate combined networks by – removing stormwater from the combined wastewater network and reducing wet weather wastewater overflows

## **Watercare**

- Inflow and infiltration inspections – removing private stormwater connected to wastewater reducing wet weather wastewater overflows
- Attending to reported dry weather overflows
- Build new wastewater infrastructure for growth and asset renewals
- Community awareness and education by regular reporting

# Eastern Isthmus Catchment



# Concerns raised by local community group

1. **Significant ongoing dry weather overflow** – There are no significant on-going dry weather overflows. The ongoing contamination is mainly from private wastewater pipes directly connected to the stormwater network.
2. **Lack of compliance with our network discharge consent (NDC)** – Watercare continues to comply with its NDC obligation and reports annually to Auckland Council. However, one item was not fully undertaken (annual inspection of overflow points). Internal resources have been dedicated to ensure compliance.
3. **Ease of communication** - A monthly report has been provided since mid-2020 to the community and stakeholders.
4. **Lack of projects to address wet weather overflow** – Funding for projects in Newmarket has been moved out several times. Funding is now available in the current AMP with construction commencing in 2028.
5. **Lack of public communication regarding public health** – Auckland Council is responsible for public health warning, communication and signage. Watercare works closely with Auckland Council to ensure private wastewater cross connections are rectified.

# Issues

## Wastewater contamination

Investigations commenced in January 2020 and found:

- Private wastewater pipes connected to the public stormwater system discharging to Hobson Bay. They continue to be resolved by Healthy Waters.
- Public faults in the wastewater network. Resolved by Watercare as identified.

## Dry Weather overflow

- Caused by blockages in the wastewater network by fat, wet wipes etc. They are not due to under capacity of the wastewater network.

Watercare reports monthly on the number of dry weather sewer overflows per 100km of wastewater pipe length per year (12-mth rolling average). Our citywide target is <5, with our current performance at 0.92

		SOI	2020/21 Target	Amber Threshold	Red Threshold	May-21	Jun-21
2a	Number of dry weather sewer overflows per 100km of wastewater pipe length per year (12 mth rolling average)		≤ 5	>5 to 7	>7	0.86	0.92

# Issues

## **Wet Weather overflow**

The area contains a mix of combined and separated networks. Overflows occur during rain events within the combined network. The Eastern Isthmus programme was developed to reduce overflows. The programme needs to remain as planned within the current AMP 2021 – 2041 and should not be moved out.

## **Monitoring and compliance with NDC**

Concerns raised by community with lack of planned inspection of the overflow points within the catchment. A dedicated team has been established to undertake inspections, and smart sensors have been deployed.



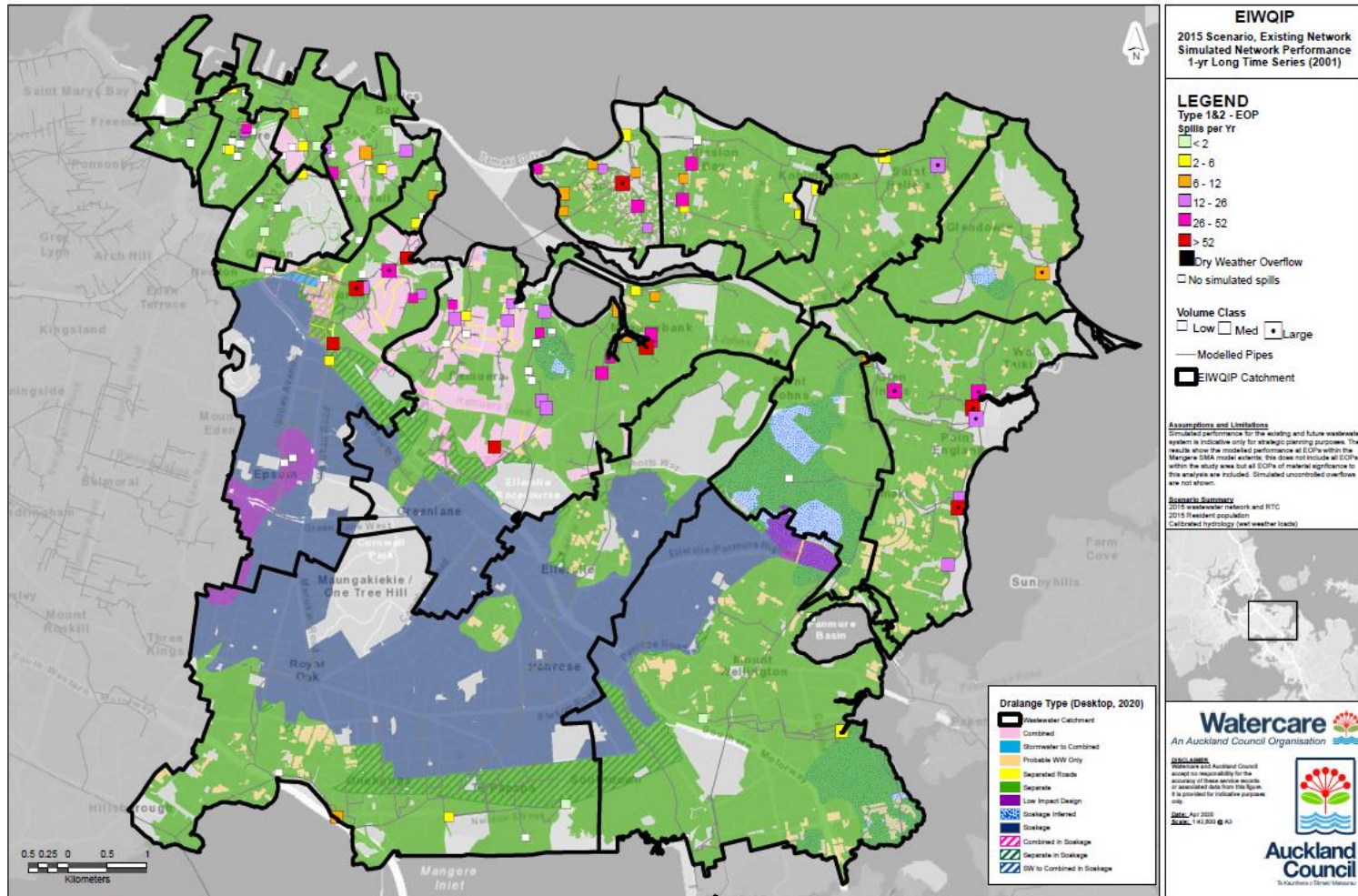
# Public health warnings and stakeholder engagement

**Watercare and Healthy Waters continue to undertake the following:**

- Information letter to the community explaining current issues within Hobson Bay
- Auckland Council installing public health warning signs
- Briefing of the Local Boards (Orakei)
- Regular updates and meetings on water quality issues and programme to stakeholders and community groups

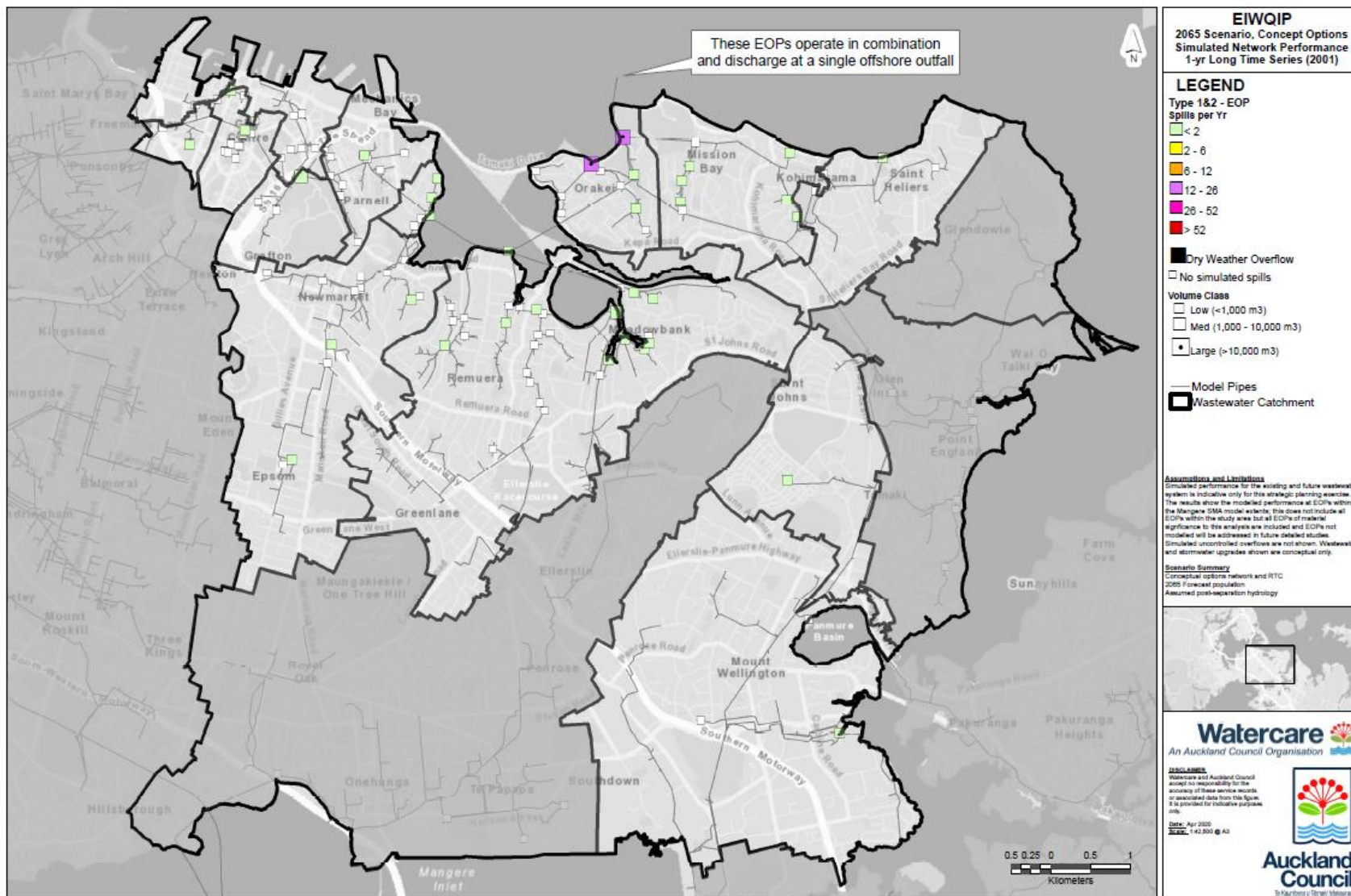
# Eastern Isthmus - what are the issues?

Wet weather overflows as a result of the combined network





# Staged outcome



# Eastern Isthmus – Operation and capital investment profile

## Eastern Isthmus Programme (Draft)

Options	Investment	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	Beyond 2037
Inflow and Infiltration (Watercare)																			
Safe networks investigation (Healthy Waters)																			
Newmarket Storage Tunnel (Watercare)	\$441M																		
Other Wastewater Upgrades (Watercare)																			
Newmarket Separation (Healthy Waters)	\$350M																		
Other Separation (Healthy Waters)																			

### Funding split

- Watercare funding \$441M (56%)
- Healthy Waters funding \$350M (44%)