

Huia Water Treatment Plant replacement

Get ready to have your say.

Ensuring a reliable water supply for years to come

Planning is underway to build a water treatment plant and two treated water storage reservoirs in Waima, west Auckland. The treatment plant will replace an existing plant that was built in 1928 and is reaching the end of its operational life. The storage reservoirs will increase the volume of water stored locally, improving the resilience of the wider water network and accommodating daily demand fluctuations.

As with the existing plant, the new plant will treat water from four dams in the Waitakere Ranges. The water produced by the plant will feed into Auckland's metropolitan water supply network, meeting up to 20 per cent of the city's water needs. This means it will benefit the local community as well as the wider Auckland metropolitan area.

The new plant will offer more advanced treatment processes and will be easier to operate and maintain than the current plant. It will be carefully laid out to ensure service vehicles can access the sites and staff can access the treatment processes safely and easily.

What's happening now?

The land we plan to build on is owned by Watercare and has been designated for water supply purposes since 1972. This designation means we are able to build a water treatment plant and reservoirs there at any time subject to Auckland Council reviewing and commenting on our outline plan of works. Our outline plan of works will show the proposed buildings and layout of the plant.

However, we need to seek resource consents for activities that will enable us to carry out construction work. For example: earthworks, stream works and vegetation removal. In May 2019, we submitted our resource consent application to Auckland Council. We have asked the council to notify the public of our application. This is because we want to give everyone the chance to have their say.

Key facts

Huia Water Treatment Plant



was built in **1928**
and needs replacing



The new plant will
continue to supply
around
20 per cent of
Auckland's water



The replacement plant and one of the two reservoirs will be built close by to the ageing plant, further along Woodlands Park Road. The second reservoir will be built on the same site as the ageing plant, once the ageing plant is demolished.

Engaging with the community



We recognise that our project is of interest to the public. For this reason, we have been taking great care to engage with the community over the past few years.

We have held open days at our ageing plant and drop-in events at Lopdell House in Titirangi. We have distributed newsletters to the local community, briefed councillors and local board members, and responded to over 1600 emails.

In 2017, we set up a community liaison group to work with us as we developed the proposal for the plant. It is made up of representatives from a wide range of organisations: West Auckland Historical Society, Titirangi Protection Group, Waima Residents and Ratepayers Association, Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, Titirangi Residents and Ratepayers Association, Auckland Botanical Society, Tree Council, and Forest and Bird Waitakere Branch.

We meet regularly with the group to discuss ways to optimise the design and minimise adverse effects. They challenge us in constructive ways, often resulting in good community outcomes. For example, the group's unwavering focus on protecting kauri trees led us to review the location for the reservoirs. We concluded that we could build the second reservoir on the existing plant site in around ten years' time. The decision has saved a stand of large kauri.

The community liaison group has helped to shape our environmental compensation package as well as our social mitigation initiatives which will help to off-set any adverse effects. These initiatives include:

- establishing and funding a charitable public trust to provide funding to private groups that seek to undertake pest and weed control and other environmental projects in the 'Waima' catchment of the Waitakere Ranges
- upgrading the intersection of Woodlands Park Road and Scenic Drive to improve traffic and pedestrian safety
- carrying out remedial work on the historical Nihotupu Filter Station in order to give it new life as an office and/or exhibition space

We recognise that Exhibition Drive is a popular walking track for the community. Therefore, we will try to maintain access to the walkway during and after construction.

Have your say on our resource consent application

In the coming months, you will have the opportunity to have your say on our resource consent application.

Auckland Council is likely to advertise our application in newspapers, and directly affected parties will be served notices individually. Council will also post information on their website – you will be able to visit www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz and search for 'Notified resource consent applications open for submission'.

Public submissions will be heard by council-appointed independent commissioners at a hearing following the end of the submission period, which will run for at least 20 working days.

Get a head start

We have published our resource consent application, a guide to the application process, and supporting information on our website: www.watercare.co.nz. This means you have plenty of time to consider our plans. Please be aware that our applications may be tweaked as a result of conversations with council in the lead up to the submission period.

Contact us

For further information about the project, please visit www.watercare.co.nz/About-us/Projects-around-Auckland