

# PUKEKOHE MATTERS



## New treatment plant brings bores back to service

**Construction on a new water treatment plant that will reinstate the Hickey Springs Bores in Pukekohe is nearing completion.**

When the new Pukekohe Water Treatment Plant goes into service later this month it will provide up to five million litres a day to Pukekohe homes and businesses.

The treatment plant was taken out of service in 2013 because it needed an upgrade and the source was not needed at that time. Pukekohe's water has come from the Waikato Water Treatment Plant since then.

Reinstating the bores now is part of our response to this year's drought. Our Hūnua dam levels are still far below where they would normally be at this time of year, so bringing this groundwater source back to service means we can continue to minimise abstraction from these dams.

When the new treatment plant goes live, your water could be a blend of treated bore water and Waikato River water.

If you have lived in Pukekohe for a long time, you may be shuddering at the memory of discoloured water from the old treatment plant we inherited when the Supercity was formed. This was because the old plant did not have processes to remove iron and manganese from the water.

The new \$11.5 million treatment plant is simple in design but uses sophisticated technology and a multi-barrier treatment process to produce crystal-clear water of the highest quality.

The water is pumped from an underground aquifer from two bores about 270 metres deep. We then dose it with chlorine and use membrane filters to remove iron and manganese. While chlorine disinfects the water, we also use ultra-violet light dosing units to provide additional disinfection before it is distributed to local homes and businesses.

While the bore's reinstatement has been accelerated as part of our drought response, the new plant is a permanent addition to Auckland's water supply.

You may notice a slight change in the taste of your water. This is because groundwater contains a variety of naturally-occurring minerals like calcium, magnesium and silica. When the new treatment plant goes into service there may be a change in flows which could result in a short-term change to the clarity of the water. If you do experience this, please let us know by calling 09 442 2222.

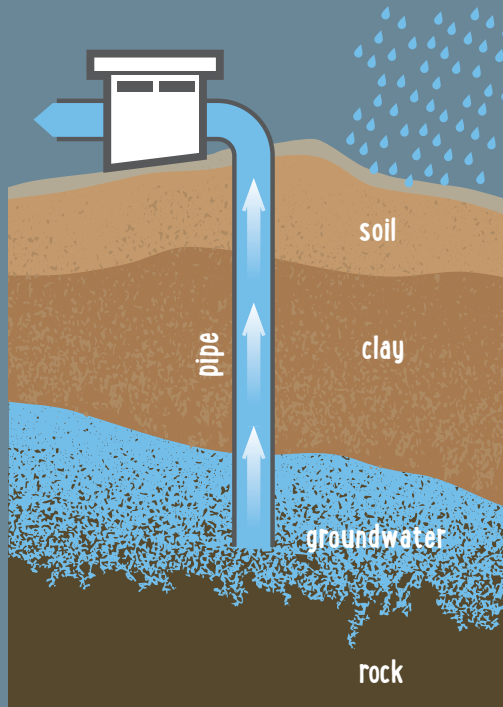
We carry out rigorous testing to make sure the water we supply to our customers is safe and meets the Ministry of Health's drinking water standards. Our automated control system analyses the quality of the water produced by our treatment plants 24 hours a day.

# How do bores work?

Rain soaks down into the cracks and gaps in soil, rocks and sand. We call this water 'groundwater' because it is below the surface of the ground. A bore is simply a hole drilled down to access this water. We draw the water up to the surface using a pipe and pumps.

**Did you know?**

About a third of the water used in New Zealand comes from groundwater sources.



## Water hardness

Groundwater contains naturally-elevated levels of minerals that have dissolved from surrounding rocks. The higher calcium, magnesium – and sometimes sodium – content means groundwater is often considered 'harder' than other raw water sources. At Watercare, our groundwater sources fall in the 'soft' or 'moderately hard' category and are well within the recommended range in the NZ Drinking Water Standards.

Water source	Hardness description	Bore depth
Waiuku	Moderately hard	98 metres
Bombay (springwater)	Moderately hard	n/a
Onehunga (springwater)	Soft	n/a
Muriwai (springwater)	Soft	n/a
Warkworth	Moderately hard	220m, 176m
Snells-Algies	Soft	185m, 208m
Helensville (Sandhills spring)	Moderately hard	n/a
Pukekohe	Moderately hard	270m

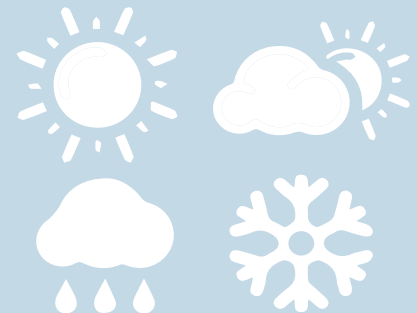
## CONTACT US

*Pukekohe Matters* is your newsletter. If you have any questions or feedback, please email our communications team at [communications@water.co.nz](mailto:communications@water.co.nz)

## Fast facts



Groundwater provides almost **half** of all drinking water worldwide.



Some of the water we drink may have entered the aquifer **hundreds** of years ago.