

TAPPED IN

Bringing you news, updates and information from Watercare



WATER LOOKS AFTER US,
**LET'S LOOK
AFTER WATER**
USE A TRIGGER NOZZLE

We recommend you continue to connect a trigger nozzle to your hose because it helps to reduce the volume of water that's wasted.

Good shape for summer

Ka pai everyone! Your incredible water savings over the past 18 months has helped our dams to recover from Auckland's record-breaking drought. This means our water supply is in good shape as we head into summer.

With dam levels back to normal for this time of year, the mandatory water restrictions have been lifted. But we still encourage you to use water wisely.

Over the coming months, we will continue to run our water efficiency campaign. We will also continue to increase the volume of water available in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Since water restrictions were introduced in May 2020, we have expanded two water treatment plants and built three new ones. At the moment, we're working to expand the Waitākere Water Treatment Plant and build the permanent Papakura Water Treatment Plant. By Easter next year we will have increased the volume of water available by up to 104 million litres a day.

Today, our water supply is more resilient to droughts than it was two years ago. This is because we're less reliant on the dams – with more water being drawn from groundwater and river sources.

We're not drought-proof, though, which means we are updating our drought management plan for future use. Mandatory water restrictions will form part of the new plan, as they are an effective tool for managing severe droughts.

FAST FACTS

20+ billion
litres of
water saved
by customers
since May 2020

104MLD*
boost to supply
by Watercare

* millions of litres per day

Building better and smarter solutions

We are working on a number of projects to improve our local water and wastewater network across Auckland.

Leak detection passes key milestones

Our proactive leak detection programme is back up and running after shutting down for COVID-19 Alert Level 4.

This month, the programme has passed key milestones, with more than 6000 kilometres of our water pipes surveyed. That's almost two thirds of our entire water network.

By finding and fixing these leaks, we estimate we've reduced the volume of water loss by 10 million litres a day.

This programme will continue to ensure we keep fixing leaks where ever they show up.



Please note: this photo was taken before COVID-19 lockdown.



Smart meter residential roll-out begins

We are rolling out a new programme to replace ageing mechanical water meters with smart meters.

The benefits of having a smart meter will increase over time. Initially, having one will ensure we all find out about leaks sooner because we'll be able to see sudden spikes in water use.

Next year, customers will be able to download an app that shows them their daily water use and suggests ways to be more water efficient.

Our aim is to install 44,000 smart meters over the next 12 months. We are prioritising streets with older mechanical meters as well as new builds.



Work on the \$1.2 billion Central Interceptor Wastewater Tunnel is well underway

Our tunnel-boring machine, Hiwa-i-te-rangi, set off on her 14.7 kilometre journey from Māngere to Grey Lynn on 30 July. With the COVID-19 Alert Level 4 behind her, she's on her way - with the project expected to finish in 2026.

This project is an integral part of our long-term strategy to manage wastewater within Auckland effectively. The Central Interceptor will provide many benefits, which include:

- reducing overflows by up to 80% in central Auckland
- meeting the needs of a growing population
- replacing infrastructure that's reaching the end of its operational life.

Find out more about the project by visiting centralinterceptor.co.nz



Valuing our environment

Aucklanders value the natural environment – local forests, bush, beaches and waterways are treasured. We do too – everything we do is intrinsically connected to the environment and we are committed to protecting and improving it.

As outlined in our 2021-2041 asset management plan, we invest heavily in advanced wastewater treatment processes to ensure the water released back into the environment has no harmful effects.

Currently, we're carrying out a \$60 million upgrade to the Pukekohe Wastewater Treatment Plant and local network.

This upgrade will significantly improve the quality of the water being released into Parker Lane Stream, a tributary of the Waikato River. It will also cater for population growth in the area for the next 35 years.

We published our annual report on 29 October. Here are some highlights:



\$767 million
invested in water and wastewater infrastructure



356 million
litres of water supplied every day



354 million
litres of wastewater collected and treated every day



115,000
trees planted in the Hūnua Ranges



1.23GWh
of electricity generated by our floating solar array at Rosedale plant



Parker Lane Stream is the discharge point for the high-quality treated wastewater from the new Pukekohe Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Explore the Watercare Coastal Walkway

The warmer and longer days ahead of us make it the perfect time for you and your whānau to visit the Watercare Coastal Walkway.

The seven-kilometre track runs along the Manukau Harbour foreshore between Ambury Regional Park and Ōtūataua Stonefields. The walkway is well-maintained and relatively flat, making it suitable for cyclists and walkers of all levels of fitness.

What you can see and do

- Visit Ambury Park, a working farm with plenty of opportunity to get up close to the animals.
- Explore Ōtūataua Stonefields, an historic reserve which evokes Auckland's volcanic past and provides a record of early Māori and European farms and gardens.
- See the freshwater springs along the foreshore.
- Observe the inhabitants of four large bird roosts along the walkway. The roosts attract birds from the Arctic Circle, Asia and the South Island, as well as local wading birds.

Did you know?

The Watercare Coastal Walkway was created during New Zealand's largest coastal rehabilitation project which saw the removal of 515 hectares of wastewater oxidation ponds and the construction of 13 kilometres of beaches.

For more information, visit waterforlife.org.nz/exploring-the-coastal-walkway.

Water looks after us, so let's look after water.



Water looks after us every day – it keeps us hydrated, flushes our toilets and cleans our bodies, clothes, dishes and homes. So let's look after it by using it wisely.

It's not about going without: it's about reducing the volume that's wasted and reusing it where possible. For example:

Collect shower water: Put a couple of buckets in the bottom of your shower while the water is heating up. Use this water on your garden or to flush your toilet.

Save your cooking water: If you steam or boil vegetables, save the water rather than tipping it down the sink. It is full of nutrients and, when cooled, makes a free fertiliser for watering your plants.

Install a water tank: Rather than wasting rainwater, maximise roof run-off and redirect it for use on your garden. Visit the Auckland Council website and search 'rain tank' for more details.

Thanks, Auckland!

We appreciate your waterwise behaviours and compliance with restrictions during the past couple of months. It hasn't been easy during lockdown so your support and cooperation is much appreciated.

At COVID-19 Alert Level 3, our maintenance crew and contractors are back in the field maintaining physical distance and adhering to strict protocols to keep our people safe. For everyone's safety, we ask that you also maintain a safe distance from our crew.



KEEP IN TOUCH

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