

# WARKWORTH MATTERS



*The new water treatment plant*

## New water treatment plant going live

**Warkworth's drinking water supply is about to get even better. Our customers in Warkworth will no longer be drinking water sourced from the Mahurangi River when the new Warkworth Wells Water Treatment Plant goes live on 6 December.**

The new plant is currently in the commissioning stage, making sure everything runs smoothly before it starts providing the area's water.

The state-of-the-art plant draws water from two bores instead of the Mahurangi River. The water produced by our new plant will be treated to an Aa-grade standard. It features the latest technology and effectively doubles our treatment capacity in Warkworth, so we can keep up with future growth. Our \$29 million project also includes upgrading parts of the water supply network.

The new water treatment plant and the bores themselves are more secure and reliable than the existing plant and the Mahurangi River water source. The treatment process that we are using at the new plant has been designed to prevent contamination after the water has been drawn from the bores. Our design means that the water is treated and distributed without exposing it to the environment and the first time we see it is when we turn on our taps.

You may notice a difference in the way your water tastes once the treatment plant goes live. The groundwater source is very different from the Mahurangi River. The water that has been travelling through the aquifer contains a variety of naturally-occurring minerals and is different in composition to the river water. While the taste may change, our new plant will make sure that the water is demonstrably safe to drink and is of an extremely high quality. As with the soon-to-be-decommissioned water treatment plant, fluoride will not be added to the drinking water supplied from the Warkworth Wells Water Treatment Plant.

We do extensive testing to make sure that the water we supply to our customers is safe and meets the Ministry of Health's drinking water standards. On average, we carry out 250 tests each day on water samples from different points across our entire network covering the Auckland region, from raw water through to treated water. We also have an automated control system with a number of on-line instruments that analyse the quality of the water produced by our treatment plants 24 hours a day.

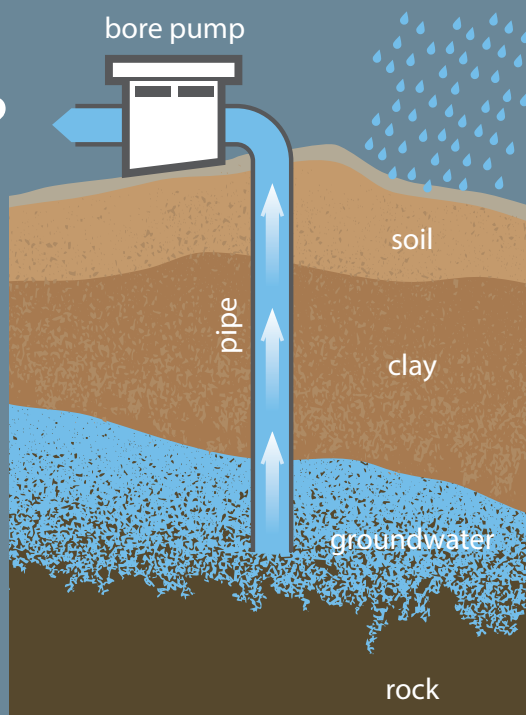
For more information about our projects, visit [www.watercare.co.nz](http://www.watercare.co.nz) and click on "Projects around Auckland".



# 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.

Other communities in the Auckland region that use treated drinking water supplied from groundwater or springs are Muriwai, Algies Bay, Snells Beach, Bombay, Waiuku and Onehunga.



Did you know?

The two bores supplying the Warkworth Wells Water Treatment Plant are between 175 and 200m deep.

## Groundwater facts

Groundwater is water that flows in underground aquifers. Rain seeps down through the soil and fills rock fractures and the spaces between grains of sand and soil, in the same way as a sponge holds water. The water "picks up" minerals as it moves through the rocks.

Groundwater supplies are replenished by rain or melting snow.

### Mineral content

Groundwater contains higher levels of minerals like calcium, magnesium and sodium, than other raw water sources.

Over time, the minerals can cause a build-up of limescale in domestic appliances like dishwashers, kettles, hot water cylinders and washing machines. Please check with your appliance manufacturer before using any products to remove this.

### Tips for descaling your kettle

One way to descale your kettle is by half-filling it with a solution of equal parts water and white vinegar. Boil the mixture and then let it sit in the kettle for about 15 minutes. Pour it out and then rinse it thoroughly.

You can also clean your showerhead by filling a snaplock bag with vinegar and tying it over the showerhead so it is submerged, and leaving it overnight.



Did you know?

8,400 is the current population of Warkworth and the surrounding areas.



By 2040 this is expected to grow to 35,000.

## CONTACT US

Warkworth Matters is your newsletter. If you would like to talk to us about any stories from this edition or your ideas for future issues, we'd love to hear from you.

To get in touch, please email our communications team at [communications@water.co.nz](mailto:communications@water.co.nz).

