

TAPPED IN

Bringing you the latest news, events and more from Watercare

Winter 2026

Latest news



Caring for Auckland, now and for what comes next

Something significant happened beneath Auckland this winter. After years of planning, construction and tunnelling deep below the city, the Central Interceptor became fully operational. Most Aucklanders will never see inside it, but its impact will be felt above ground: fewer wastewater overflows, cleaner waterways and a more resilient network for a growing city.

Even before the full tunnel opened, the section already operating had prevented an estimated 741 million litres of wastewater and stormwater from overflowing into the environment — the equivalent of 300 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

It is a striking example of what infrastructure can achieve, and a reminder that work on this scale is never the effort of one organisation alone. It takes mana whenua, communities, councils, engineers, scientists, contractors and specialists working through complex challenges together.

Delivering smarter, together, is essential for what comes next, too.

Auckland is growing, weather patterns are changing, and the cost of building and renewing the infrastructure our city relies on is rising. More than 20,000 kilometres of water and wastewater pipes form part of an interconnected system of treatment plants, pump stations and other essential assets serving homes, businesses and

communities. Every part of that system must work together, every day.

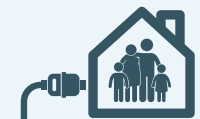
That scale brings responsibility. We must be clear about what we prioritise, and where investment will make the greatest difference which is why we are bringing more than 1,000 projects together into nine major infrastructure programmes. Planning them as one connected body of work will help us renew critical assets, add capacity where Auckland needs it most, while improving reliability and environmental outcomes.

We are also looking beyond pipes and concrete. Healthy catchments, waterways, soils and coastal environments all shape how well infrastructure performs. Better data, smart monitoring and technology are helping us identify problems earlier and make more informed decisions.

For households, that means safe, reliable services and greater resilience. For businesses, it means the certainty and capacity needed to operate and grow. For Auckland, it means cleaner waterways and infrastructure designed for the demands of the decades ahead.

Every generation inherits a city shaped by the decisions of those who came before it. Our task is to care for what we have inherited, strengthen it for the people who rely on it today, and prepare the next generation for a thriving, healthy future.

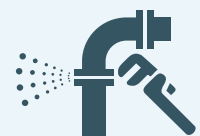
Watercare at work*



39.8 billion+
litres of water produced



More than 3,300
new properties
connected to our
networks



6,494
leaks fixed across
all of Auckland

*1 April - 30 June 2026

What's happening across Auckland

In the next 10 years we're delivering 9 programmes to benefit Auckland

Rosedale Wastewater Treatment Plant Programme

Supporting growth and enabling other upgrades across the North Shore and west Auckland by increasing wastewater treatment capacity and efficiency, reducing emissions, and making better use of the renewable energy produced on-site.

Waitematā Water Quality Improvement Programme

A programme that will leverage the investment already made in the Central Interceptor by further reducing wet weather overflows, improving the health of waterways and harbours, and supporting future growth.

Western Water Supply Programme

Investing in Auckland's water future, this programme improves network resilience and ensures a reliable water supply for generations to come.

Māngere Wastewater Treatment Plant Programme

Future-proofing Auckland's largest wastewater treatment plant by increasing capacity and efficiency, this programme creates opportunities to test new technologies and lead innovation in wastewater treatment and technology.

Southwest Programme

Supporting growth in Auckland's southwest by upgrading ageing wastewater infrastructure, improving network reliability, and delivering better environmental outcomes for the Manukau Harbour.

Waikato Water Supply Programme

Boosting Auckland's water security by increasing resilience.

Wastewater Interceptor Programme

Renewing Auckland's ageing wastewater interceptors to improve network reliability, reduce environmental risk, and protect essential infrastructure for the future.

Biosolids Programme

Planning for Auckland's future biosolids needs. This programme delivers a long-term biosolids disposal solution that supports reliable and resilient services for a growing city.

Renewals and Capital Projects Programme

Investing in critical infrastructure upgrades and renewals to maintain reliable services, this improves network resilience and performance, and supports Auckland's growth for generations to come.

- Key
- Water infrastructure
 - Wastewater infrastructure
 - Water and wastewater infrastructure

Building the system Auckland will rely on

Over the next decade, we're bringing more than 1,000 projects together into nine major programmes so we can renew ageing infrastructure, support a growing city and create a stronger, more resilient water and wastewater system for the future.

Moving from delivering individual projects to programmes of work allows us to plan better, deliver more efficiently and create greater long-term value for Auckland.

Key programme benefits

- Improves environmental outcomes**
Improves treatment performance and helps protect waterways and coastal environments.
- Strengthens reliability and resilience**
Reduces the risk of leaks, failures, service disruption and wastewater overflows.
- Reduces emissions**
Supports more efficient treatment, energy recovery and lower-emissions operations.
- Supports growth**
Provides capacity for new homes, businesses and communities.

Programme highlights

Rosedale: preparing for growth in the north

The Rosedale Wastewater Treatment Plant Programme plays a critical role in supporting Auckland's northern communities. As demand grows, we are investing in the infrastructure needed to maintain reliable service, improve operational performance and strengthen resilience.

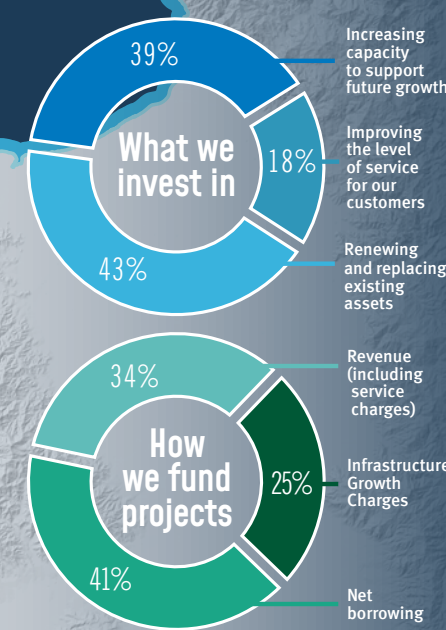
The introduction of thermal hydrolysis is one example of how we're using smarter technology to unlock more capacity from existing assets while improving environmental outcomes and energy recovery.



Waikato Water Supply Programme: delivering today for tomorrow

A long-term investment in Auckland's water future, the Waikato Water Supply Programme strengthens water security, improves resilience to climate change, and supports the region's continued growth.

The programme delivers key infrastructure in stages, including a new raw water intake, a new water treatment plant, a new reservoir and a new pipeline connection to Auckland's network. The project will have a strong focus on partnership with Waikato-Tainui, stewardship, and responsibility to the Waikato River.



Learn more about the programmes shaping Auckland's water future at [watercare.co.nz/projects](https://www.watercare.co.nz/projects).



In the know

Small actions, big impact: saving water at home and at work

Understanding how water works – and how we use it – helps us all make smarter, more sustainable choices.



Take control of your water use at home by learning how to track, manage and reduce it. From understanding your meter to making everyday water-saving changes, there are easy steps you can take to lower usage and save.

For more information, visit watercare.co.nz/water-at-home



Water use at work is often less visible, but just as important. Discover practical ways to reduce water use in your workplace and help build a culture of efficiency and sustainability across your team.

For more information visit watercare.co.nz/water-at-work



From 1 July, our water and wastewater prices increase by 7.2 per cent. To talk to us about your account, payment options or support available, visit watercare.co.nz/contact or chat with our digital Billing Assistant.

Exploring the future of Biosolids

Understanding what happens to Auckland's biosolids is important for all of us. That's why we've launched Everyone's Business, a new short video series that makes a complex topic easier to understand. Hosted by biosolids planning manager Rob Tinholt, the series explains the key options for managing biosolids and the trade-offs involved. The first four videos cover landfill, incineration, air quality and environmental impacts, with more to come. Whether you're new to the conversation or looking to learn more, Everyone's Business provides the information you need to understand the decisions ahead. Watch the latest videos at watercare.co.nz/biosolids.



Help prevent winter blockages

As temperatures drop, fats, oils and grease can quickly solidify in pipes, increasing the risk of blockages and overflows. You can help keep Auckland's wastewater network flowing by keeping cooking fats, oils and grease out of the sink this winter. Instead, let them cool and dispose of them in the bin.

Read more on watercare.co.nz/keepitflowing



Just add you

Every day, our people help provide safe drinking water and wastewater services for Auckland, while delivering projects that support our city.

From project management to engineering, our new **Just Add You** series takes you behind the scenes to meet the people doing this essential work. Explore their stories and discover the many different career pathways available.



Meet operations engineer Nicole at watercare.co.nz/nicole



Meet operator Kacey at watercare.co.nz/kacey



Meet project manager Lucy at watercare.co.nz/lucy

KEEP IN TOUCH

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