

# CENTRAL INTERCEPTOR BULLETIN

Keith Hay Park site, Arundel Street, Hillsborough

**We're building the Central Interceptor, a super-sized wastewater tunnel to reduce overflows, creating a better environment for you to enjoy.**

## Project milestones

Hiwa-i-te-Rangi, our main Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) passed the 12 kilometre mark of her 16.2km journey in mid-July. She had just passed by our Mt Albert site, the sixth breakthrough of ten on her journey north. Lately, she's been making excellent progress at some 550-600m a month.

Domenica, our micro-TBM, has completed her second drive (300m) on the 1.1km, 2.4m-diameter, Link Sewer C. This ends her time on the project and she has been relocated to our warehouse in Māngere for refurbishment, before being sent off to her next project.

## Site update

At the main construction site, near the leisure centre, most of the underground work is complete. The base of the deep shaft has been connected to the main tunnel. We have also constructed the basement of our plant room and placed an airduct to connect the plant room to the top of the deep shaft.



We've now completed all our chambers and are currently installing and testing gates inside some of them. These gates are used to control flow from one chamber to the next. Over the coming months, we will build the remainder of the plant room that will sit above ground level. The plant room will house controls that Watercare operations division uses to operate the wastewater network.

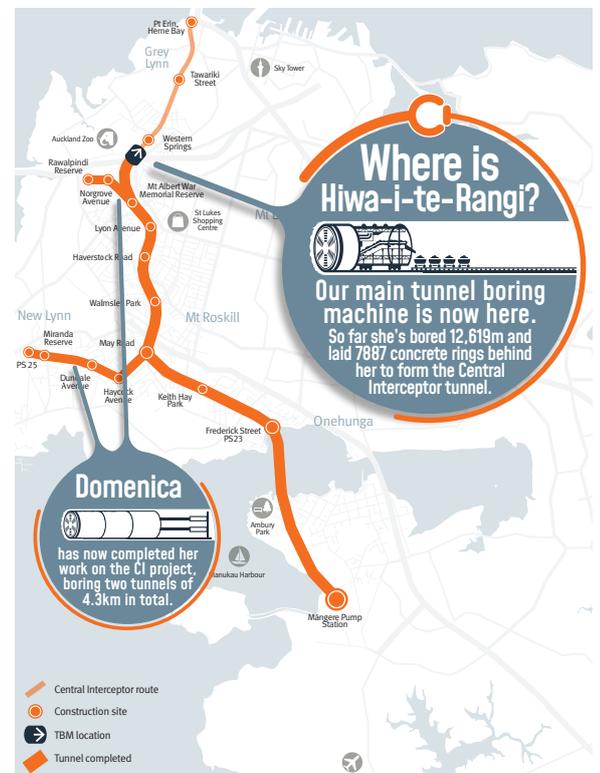
Last year we constructed a wastewater pipe, 'Branch 9B' under the northern half of the park. This pipeline extends from Frost Road, north of SH20, to our main construction site near the leisure centre. This year we have constructed all the chambers along Branch 9B including a new outfall. We are currently installing and testing gates in some of the chambers and beginning to reinstate the footpaths and the park back to public use again.

In June this year we finished constructing another wastewater pipe, 'CC9', under the southern half of the park. This runs from Richardson Road back to our main construction site. We have now also finished the three chambers closest to the schools and kindergarten. We will return to the kindergarten during the next school holidays to reinstate and asphalt the car park. Our current focus is completing the four remaining chambers along CC9 between the cricket club and the leisure centre.

## Tunnel progress

Check out our website which now has a weekly update of the TBM's progress. <https://www.watercare.co.nz/Central-interceptor/Constructing-the-Central-Interceptor>.

You can also follow us on Facebook, or Instagram.



**TELL US HOW YOU REALLY FEEL**

Take the online survey at: [www.watercare.co.nz/aucklandprojects](http://www.watercare.co.nz/aucklandprojects) or scan the QR code



## Growing Together: CI school gardens initiative with Oke Charity

We recently partnered with Oke Charity to create beautiful new gardens for the tamariki at Hay Park School. Established in 2016, Oke Charity empowers Kiwi kids by offering opportunities to learn life and social skills through sustainable "outdoor classrooms" across Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland and beyond. As a gesture of gratitude for our neighbours' patience during our nearby construction in Mt Roskill, our Social Outcomes team is delighted to support this mission. We've done so by sponsoring gardens for both Hay Park School and Hillsborough Kindergarten.

Our working bee, held during the first week of Matariki, saw CI staff joining forces with Oke Charity, school staff and students. Together, we built raised beds, planted fruit trees and set up a new greenhouse and garden shed stocked with supplies. The day was filled with teamwork, laughter and the joy of creating a space where children can thrive and learn in nature.

This initiative embodies the principle of "Mauri Ora," which emphasizes promoting wellness for both people and the environment. It reflects our commitment to fostering strong, positive community relationships and ensuring our contributions have lasting social benefits beyond the tunnel.



### Any questions?

For up to date information please see our website:  
[www.centralinterceptor.co.nz](http://www.centralinterceptor.co.nz)

You can also email us at:  
[ciproject@ga-jv.com](mailto:ciproject@ga-jv.com)

Or phone:  
 0800 GAJV 02 (0800425802)

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## Who it takes to build the Central Interceptor

CI stretches across 17 sites from Māngere to Herne Bay. Each of these sites has a team of people working on various activities and construction stages. There is a wide range of jobs on this project, each requiring different skills, backgrounds, experience, and qualifications. This regular feature will give some insight into one of our many important roles.

### Andy Schmidt, Ventilation Mine Officer. (Unofficially "The Oracle")

**What is a VMO? Describe some of your daily activities:**

I started on CI in 2019 as TBM Tunnel Safety Advisor and Ventilation Officer. Initially the role was to design the ventilation systems for the shafts and tunnels, working out the best arrangements and suppliers. And getting everything planned and ready, such electrical, mechanical, people and documentation.



**I have a lot of day-to-day involvement with each site:**

I assist the tunnelling and civils teams with gas monitoring. This involves checking maintaining, calibrating equipment, fixing faults with gas monitors. Ventilation surveys including long term studies especially once drives or tunnel sections are complete to determine the natural ventilation pressures.

Mine regulation work also takes up my time, particularly assisting with the emergency management plan: exercises and organising all the emergency equipment for sites, such as stretchers, trauma kits, oxygen therapy. I manage the self-rescuers for all sites, forecasting the numbers required and conducting monthly checks. I am a First Responder, a NZ Mines Rescue team member with bimonthly training.

One role I enjoy is to present at site pre-starts on subjects such as air quality, Occupational Health surveys and Mine Regulations compliance.

**What is your background (work)?**

I qualified as a Mining Engineer (Otago), worked as a coal miner for a few years, then a tunnel shift engineer on the Channel Tunnel), followed by mining engineer roles here and Australia. I've since had 23 years as a safety manager, including at Manapouri and the Waihi Gold Mine.

**What qualifications do you need for your job?**

I have a Certificate of Competence (CoC) as Ventilation Officer and hold A Grade Quarry and A Grade Tunnel Manager CoCs. My engineering degree gives me the technical ability to calculate and solve problems.

**What are the challenges of your role?**

On this project, is the changing dynamics and number of project work areas. At times it can get a stretched, so I keep a field note-book for action items. There is a lot of working with people: there's a big focus ensuring a safe working environment, both daily and in an emergency, so that comes down to personal interaction.



We encourage you to receive these updates electronically - send us your email, your current mailing address and quote "Sign me up: Keith Hay Park site bulletin" to [ciproject@water.co.nz](mailto:ciproject@water.co.nz)