

CENTRAL INTERCEPTOR BULLETIN

Norgrove Avenue site, Norgrove Reserve

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

Site update

Our Norgrove Avenue team hit the ground running in 2024, to complete the next phases of work on Watercare's Central Interceptor project. This year's focus is largely in the Norwood Reserve where we are constructing five new manholes, a control chamber and a plant room. Work on the manholes has already begun and will continue until late June 2024. These new manholes and pipe connections are larger than the existing ones to manage the increased flows of wastewater and stormwater, especially when it rains heavily.

Micro tunnelling team milestone

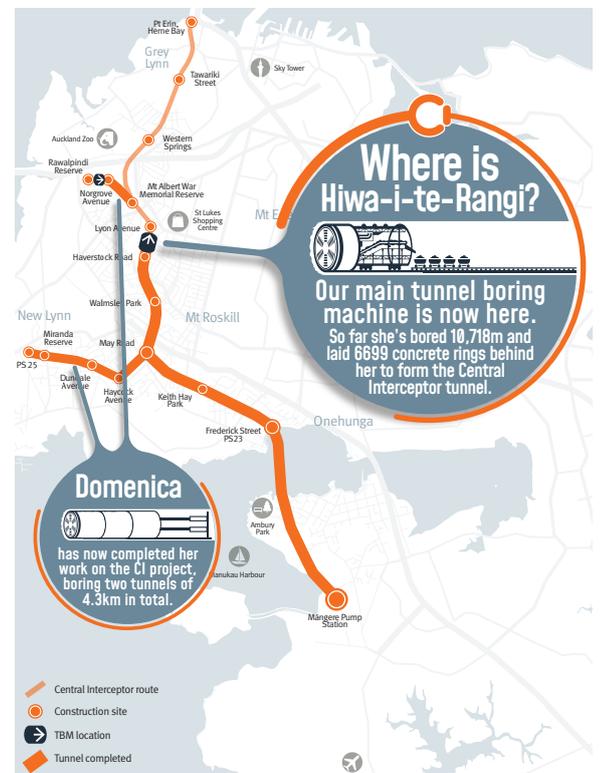
After completing the 800m tunnel from the Mt Albert War Memorial Reserve site, the 2.8m diameter micro-Tunnel Boring Machine, Domenica, has tunneled 300m from Rawalpindi Reserve to Norgrove Avenue. This marks the completion of the tunnelling operations for the Norgrove Avenue site on Link Sewer B and her time here on the Central Interceptor project. Domenica will be relocated to our warehouse in Māngere for refurbishment before being sent off to her next project.



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.



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The next six months

From July our team will turn its attention to constructing the control chamber. A control chamber is a concrete underground structure which provides access for regular maintenance and inspections. These chambers are also fitted with a control device to regulate the flow of wastewater from new and existing sewer networks entering the Central Interceptor Tunnel.

Towards the latter half of the year, the team will be focused on lining the 29m deep shaft with concrete. This will be done with a precast monolithic ring, an 'all in one' or continuous concrete pour around the shaft forming a ring-like underground structure.

We will also be working on the construction of the plant room, and the remaining retaining walls. The aim is for our Mechanical and Electrical team to take over in late 2024 to 'liven' the sewer and make the electrical connections. Our work is still on track to be completed by the end of the year.



Who it takes to build the Central Interceptor

The Central Interceptor project stretches across 17 sites from Māngere to Pt Erin, Herne Bay. Each of these sites has a team of people working on various activities and construction stages. There are numerous jobs on this project, each requiring different skills, backgrounds, experience and qualifications. This regular feature will give some insight into one of the many important roles on the project.

Technical Engineer

What is a technical engineer?

A technical engineer is responsible for coordinating and managing the completion and delivery of designs that are required for the entire duration of a construction project. The designs need to be completed on time and need to take into consideration a wide array of factors as constructability, cost, geology and other site constraints to name a few.

What are the daily activities of this role?

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A typical day includes liaising with the construction team, the Client, subcontractors and CAD drafters in order to facilitate a smooth design process and to produce coordinated designs that work and satisfy the needs of all parties. Design changes and technical queries are also managed by the technical engineer.



Joey Tong, Assistant Design Manager for CI project

What qualifications do you need?

A Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) degree.

What is one of the challenges of being a technical engineer on the project?

Due to the size of this project and having all 16 sites open now, it can mean juggling up to 20 different designs in parallel, all of which will be at different stages of design, with different complexities of their own and competing demands.

Is there anything about the job that might surprise people?

Construction is such a dynamic and fast-paced environment, so sometimes you turn up to work and end up doing something completely different than what you had planned due to urgent and unforeseen work that comes your way.

Any questions?

For up to date information please see our website:

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