

Huia WTP spoil site consented.

Consent granted

- An integral part of Watercare's Western Water Supply programme has been consented with consent granted for spoil to be deposited at the existing Parau sludge site on Exhibition Drive, Titirangi.
- This site has been used as a landfill location for the sludge byproduct produced during water treatment for over 40 years and Watercare has an existing land use consent until 2031 for sludge to be deposited at this location.
- During construction of the future Huia Water Treatment Plant, earthworks will produce spoil which needs careful disposal as Watercare has determined – through a significant surveying programme – that the site and surrounding area is heavily contaminated with *Phytophthora Agathidicida* (PA), otherwise known as kauri dieback disease. The pathogen was found at locations throughout the site, many distant from any kauri trees. Of the over one thousand samples taken within the catchment, more than 200 were positive.

Why this site was chosen

- This site was chosen based on feedback that it was important to retain the whenua within the rohe of local iwi, Te Kawerau ā Māki, and keep spoil within the rāhui area the iwi has placed on the Waitākere Ranges.
- This site also minimises the risk of spread of kauri dieback, because of its proximity to the construction site and because kauri dieback is already present within the environment around the sludge site. Taking it to a site where the pathogen is already present is preferential to taking it to a site that is not already affected by kauri dieback.

How we will minimise the spread of kauri dieback/OR manage the operation

- Spoil material will be transported, handled, and dumped in a way that minimises the spread of kauri dieback. Watercare will develop a *Phytophthora* Risk Management Plan which will be peer reviewed to ensure all activities limit the risk of PA spreading.
- At the completion of the works, the fill site will be capped with clay and vegetated.
- Existing vegetation and fauna will be protected during the works and best-practice management measures adopted during the operation of the fill site to minimise impacts on the downstream aquatic and riparian environments.
- A fauna fence will be constructed in critical areas around the site and transport routes to minimise direct impacts on kauri snails and lizard species.

The impact to the community

- Public access will be managed during the operation. The public will still be able to access the Pipeline Track from the end of Exhibition Drive to Mackies Rest and directly from Huia Road.

- During construction it is anticipated that there will be 30 to 40 single truckloads of spoil transported to the Parau sludge site each day. One of the conditions of the resource consent for the Huia Water Treatment Plant replacement project states that a Construction Traffic Management Plan must be in place. A site-specific transport management plan will also be prepared to ensure safe two-way movement of trucks in and out of the Parau disposal site. It is envisaged that there will be traffic control at the corner of Huia Road and Exhibition Drive.

Why was the consent non-notified?

- Auckland Council advised that there were no special circumstances that would warrant the application for consent being notified as the site has operated as a receiving landfill from the current water treatment plant for more than 40 years.
- We previously identified this site as a spoil location in our consent application for the new treatment plant.
- Whilst the management of kauri-dieback-infected soil at this scale is extraordinary, the receipt of fill material, managing it on site and managing and avoiding discharges is commonplace. The Phytophthora Risk Management Plan will ensure that any runoff from the spoil will not exacerbate the current situation.

A copy of the consent document will be placed on our website at

<https://www.watercare.co.nz/home/projects-and-updates/projects-around-auckland/huia-water-treatment-plant-replacement-project>