

CENTRAL INTERCEPTOR BULLETIN

Mt Albert War Memorial Reserve site, Wairere Avenue, Mt Albert

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

Site update

We reached a major project milestone last December when we completed the shaft with the installation of the lid, as pictured.

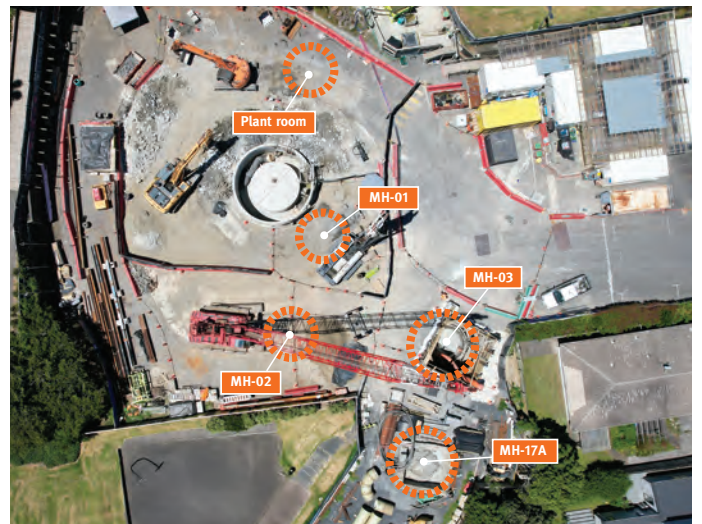
Our on-going work is the construction of the chambers, manholes (MH), plant room and associated services. All entail some degree of excavating through hard basalt, which is one of our noisier construction activities. The Reserve has several metres of basalt just below the surface which is very difficult to break up.

A major work we have completed is the 10.3m-deep excavation of the MH03 cascade drop chamber. This receives flows from the MH17A bifurcation chamber via a new 13m connector pipe. This flow drops from each cascade shelf on the 'wet' side to reduce the energy of the water due to the height it falls from.

Once the flows reach the bottom of the shelves, they are fed into the sewer that connects to MH01. The wet and 'dry' sides are separated by a dividing wall. The dry side of the chamber is for operations staff to access the shaft via a ladder.

We have just begun 9.5m-deep excavation of the MH01 control chamber. This receives flows directly from the MH03 cascade drop chamber and passes them into the cascade drop shaft. This chamber has a control gate to manage the volume of wastewater flowing into MH03 and then entering the shaft, when required.

In mid-March we will commence 4.8m-deep excavation works for MH17A and the air duct that leads to the plant room. MH17A is a bifurcation chamber which will help relieve flows travelling within the more than 100-year-old Branch 8 sewer, which lies beneath the lower carpark. Excess flows will now pass along the new 13m connector pipe to MH03 cascade drop chamber, then to the MH01 control chamber, into the shaft and on to the CI tunnel.



The site of plant room is being excavated to some 3.5m at its deepest point. This structure is the control point for the chamber gates and houses associated electrical and mechanical equipment for regulating flows across the new infrastructure. It is the permanent structure you will see in place at the end of the project.

Our current construction timeline aims to finish all the work by early 2026. The construction activities vary greatly and so the associated noise levels will differ over time. We apologise for any discomfort our neighbours may be experiencing. If you have concerns, please contact our Contractor- see details over.

TELL US HOW YOU REALLY FEEL

Take the online survey at: www.watercare.co.nz/aucklandprojects or scan the QR code





Speakers address the crowd of 200 VIPs and project staff

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.



Southern section of our tunnel is 'switched on'

Our CI project has passed an historic milestone with the southern half of the tunnel going live. This section, Blockhouse Bay east to May Road (Link Sewer C), then south to Māngere Wastewater Treatment Plant, is 10.8km long. We are now one step closer to the goal of cleaner inland waterways and open spaces for central Auckland.

We held a formal celebration event on 14 February in our new pump station at the treatment plant, attended by Minister for Local Government Simon Watts, Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown, local elected members and project teams. Around 200 guests lined the pump station shaft as Mayor Brown gave an order to start up the new giant pumps. These send wastewater flows from the tunnel to the treatment plant at a rate of 1,200 litres per second.

It was an historic moment as we recognised the accomplishments of the 600-strong Watercare and Ghella Abergeldie JV project teams which began construction in 2019.

Mayor Brown said that as an engineer himself, he appreciated the skills involved to achieve this outcome: "It's a significant milestone for Aucklanders and a huge engineering feat for the team who have been working for the past six years. I look forward to the Central Interceptor project being completed next year to fully realise the benefit, including a significant reduction in wet weather overflows and improved water quality.

"This is an important piece in fixing Auckland's infrastructure. The Central Interceptor will take pressure off other parts of the network and will enable other long awaited wastewater projects to progress" says Mayor Brown.

Chief programme delivery officer Shayne Cunis says getting the southern half of the Central Interceptor tunnel up and running as quickly as possible was always the goal: "This is a huge result. It is rare both globally and in New Zealand for major infrastructure projects to be delivered safely, economically and on time.

We are hugely proud of the tenacity and dedication of our team in particular our construction partners Ghella Abergeldie JV. We didn't want to wait until the project was finished at the end of 2026 before getting the southern tunnel going. We've done that despite everything that's been thrown against us, including the COVID-19 pandemic, major storm events and unprecedented inflation for modern times."



The Mayor has great pleasure in pulling the chain for the first flush

Any questions?

For up to date information please see our website:

 www.centralinterceptor.co.nz

You can also email us at:

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Or phone:

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We encourage you to receive these updates electronically - send us your email, your current mailing address and quote "Sign me up: Mt Albert site bulletin" to ciproject@water.co.nz

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