

# Highlights from Waters

## Looking after our network

As Hamilton grows, access to Three Waters networks is becoming constrained, increasing the complexity and cost for maintenance.

# 1996



**maintenance tasks** across Three Waters (proactive and reactive) (Oct-Dec 2023)



**Routine inspections and network repairs**

are the most significant maintenance tasks.

## Improvements



**9/10 new drinking water zones - creating 10 drinking water supply zones to help manage supply, each with a reservoir, to help monitor quality and address leakages faster.**

Hamilton South, Newcastle Gravity Zone and Newcastle Pumped Zone were recently completed; joining Ruakiwi, Dinsdale, Rototuna, Maeroa, Fairfield and Ruakura zones. The final zone, Pukete, will be completed in April 2024.

## Compliance

**All Three Waters activities are on track to meet compliance this year.**

Staff's self-assessment of drinking water compliance came back as a high level of compliance with some minor exceedances for temperature, chlorine and ph levels.

Staff are regularly assessing and reporting on the new, and evolving, Government legislation including the new mandatory environmental performance measures being phased in by the national water services regulator, Taumata Arowai.

Every year, Waikato Regional Council reviews the conditions on all our water-related consents. Consent conditions cover the water supply activity broadly, and some requirements include management plans, operational limits, risk management, and the efficient use of water with users.



## New connections

Fast growth and intensification are driving a need to upgrade the existing network to accommodate new connections and making new connections more complex.



# 126

**Properties connecting to our network or existing connections to our network upgraded**

(Oct 2023 - Mar 2024)

# 209

**connections requests on the to-do list**



## Sampling and analysis

Collecting and analysing water, wastewater and stormwater samples (by our Co-Lab Water Services team) is critical to prove our compliance and inform our processes and decision making.

# 2525

**samples collected**

(Oct 2023 - Mar 2024)



# 29,974

**tests completed**

(Oct 2023 - Mar 2024)



## Wastewater

We keep on top of the compliance for our wastewater-related consents through testing, monitoring, contingency and management plans, design, operation and maintenance of the Pukete Treatment Plant, and our network of pipes and pumps.

Last year (July 2022 - June 2023), the overall wastewater compliance status was low-risk non-compliance.

This means any non-compliance had a low risk of adverse environmental effects or is technical in nature (e.g. failure to meet a reporting deadline).

The amount of wastewater flowing through our Pukete Treatment Plant was consistent in dry weather, and peaks during heavy rain.



# 50ML

**the average wastewater discharge daily.** That's the same amount as 2500 double milk tankers.



## Trade waste

Proactive management of trade waste is a key compliance activity to minimise the impacts on the wastewater network, Pukete Treatment Plant, and Waikato River. Trade waste management includes assessing new and renewed consent applications, monitoring and auditing, and resolving any non-compliance.

# 1321

**active Hamilton  
business trade  
waste consents**



# 508

**premises  
audits  
completed**



(Oct 2023 - Mar 2024)

# 72

**non-compliance  
issues identified  
and resolved**

(Oct 2023 - Mar 2024)

## Stormwater

Stormwater activity is on track to meet full compliance. Development pressures continue to place increased pressure on compliance expectations.



Demonstrating compliance involves monitoring and reporting on sampling and analysis to verify that the stormwater network is meeting compliance requirements.

These consents are for structures, construction and stormwater discharge consents given to Council as a result of land development. The number changes based on the status of the developments and projects.

Stormwater management includes contingency and management plans including design, operation, and maintenance of the network, management of road-side catchpits; and managing contaminations.

## Water supply



**Average water use was 70ML per day.** (Jan-Mar 2024)  
**That's the volume of 28 Olympic-sized pools daily**

During the summer, staff closely monitor the city's water usage, Lake Taupō water levels and weather forecasts.

Water demand during the summer period was lower than previous years, so water restrictions were not needed.

## Smart Water

**1100+ people**



**engaged with the Smart Water Summer Events Roadshow** including at Your Neighbourhood, the Rototuna Waikato Christmas markets and Gourmet in the Gardens.

**8 classes**



**at Forest Lake Primary School and Fairfield Intermediate, received Smart Water for School lessons.**



**769 students from 33 classes at 8 schools**

participated in United Nations World Water Day on 22 March 2024



### The Smart Water campaign focussed on:



encouraging water conservation, the value and journey of water, and water saving tips.



Continued partnership with Waipā and Waitomo district councils to pool resources and respond to community needs.