



HOBSON HEADLINES

REPLACEMENT OF THE HOBSON BAY SEWER WITH A WASTEWATER TUNNEL
UNDER HOBSON BAY AND THE ORAKEI RIDGE

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Shore Road construction to commence



A view towards Shore Road Reserve, where a new work site is being established

A new work site on Shore Road is being established in the second stage of Watercare's construction of the new sewage tunnel under Hobson Bay.

The \$118 million project will see the removal of the 90-year-old pipe that bisects the bay, and its replacement with a three-kilometre long tunnel.

Project Manager Mike Sheffield says contractors started working at the Shore Road Reserve in mid-November.

"Initially we're focussing on establishing the new construction site, including an access road from Shore Road, across the Shore Road Reserve and down to the foreshore," he says.

"This will take about two weeks, and towards the end of November construction of a causeway out into Hobson Bay will begin."

The causeway will be built using rocks excavated from the project's other construction site in the Orakei Domain. It will eventually be the main access point to a trestle-way – similar to a bridge – leading across the bay to future construction sites at Logan Terrace and Victoria Avenue.

"We are building the causeway and trestle-way to give us access to the Logan Terrace and Victoria Avenue construction sites, so there will be no construction traffic on the residential streets leading down to those sites," Mike says.

Around 8000 cubic metres of rock will be used to construct the causeway over two months. In January work on the trestle-way – which will be constructed alongside the existing pipe – will begin.

The new tunnel connects into the existing wastewater network at the same points as the original pipe – at Logan Terrace and the Orakei Domain. The depth of the tunnel varies from around approximately 90 metres under the Orakei Ridge to around 25 metres at other points.

Resource consents for the project were granted in December 2006 and construction is being carried out by a joint-venture consortium comprising The Fletcher Construction Company Ltd and McConnell Dowell Constructors Ltd.

Work on the project started in May 2007 and it is due to be completed following removal of the old pipe in 2010.



Orakei Domain ahead of schedule

Construction at the Orakei Domain is proceeding four weeks ahead of schedule.

Contractors are excavating two access-shafts at the domain, and have now completed the temporary shaft which will be the access point for the tunnel boring machine.

Watercare Project Manager Mike Sheffield says the temporary shaft is 10 metres in diameter, and has been excavated to a depth of 35 metres.

“We have completed the temporary access -shaft and have now begun digging a tunnel back towards the second, permanent shaft,” he says.

“Inside this length of tunnel we will assemble the tunnel boring machine (TBM) when it arrives in April next year.”

The second, permanent shaft is much larger at 22 metres in diameter and will eventually house a new pump station. It will take a further four months to complete.

Tunnelling with the TBM is due to begin in June next year.

Left: An excavator at work tunnelling in the temporary access-shaft at the Orakei Domain

School pupils learn about safety

Around 500 pupils from Years 1 to 8 at Saint Kentigern School in Remuera were visited by the Project Hobson team, who gave a presentation about site safety and the project in general.

Watercare Health and Safety Manager Mike Wilson says the school is near to construction sites at Victoria Avenue and Shore Road, and the presentation focussed on how the tunnel was being built, as well as looking at safety issues.

“There will be extra trucks on the roads near the school, so we reminded children to keep an eye out for them,” he says.

“We also showed the children the health and safety gear – including hard-hats, safety glasses, high visibility vests and gloves – that the construction workers use to keep themselves safe.”

Teachers who would like a presentation at their school can contact Communications Advisor Lisa Francis on (09) 539 7300 or email lfrancis@water.co.nz



Watercare Health and Safety Manager Mike Wilson talking about site safety with pupils from Saint Kentigern School in Remuera

Feedback

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