

# HELENSVILLE MATTERS



## Search for new source of water begins in Helensville

Efforts are underway to secure a new source of water for Helensville and Parakai.

Watercare is undertaking a programme of works as part of its continuing commitment to deliver high-quality drinking water to the wider Auckland region, beginning with bore-testing in the Helensville area for ground water availability.

Helensville and Parakai are currently supplied with water from the Mangakura Dams and Sandhills wetlands. Given that these are surface water sources, the supply is not reliable during dry spells and is unlikely to cope with increased demand caused by housing development.

Watercare is preparing to undertake bore testing near the Kaipara Coast Highway, and if the testing proves successful with an adequate yield of ground water, the plan is to apply for resource consents for abstraction. This will be followed by the scheme design, design of the treatment processes and commissioning of a supply pipeline. Everything going well, the bore testing is expected to be complete by mid-2015, with the new source in use by 2017.

"Our number one priority is to deliver safe and reliable water to everyone in Auckland, regardless of where they live. Helensville and the surrounding area have been identified for future growth and we are committed to ensuring that the infrastructure is in place for these essential services to be continued into the future," said Raveen Jaduram, Chief Executive of Watercare.

If the bore-testing is not successful, another option is to supply the Helensville and Parakai areas with the metropolitan water from Auckland, by extending the transmission pipeline 25km north from Kumeu and Huapai.

"Helensville is growing very fast and the availability of water is a big concern for the community. We support Watercare's efforts to find alternative water sources and hope for a solution to secure our water supply and clear the way for growth," says Brenda Steele, Chair of the Rodney Local Board.

*Pictured above: Rodney Local Board Chair Brenda Steele with Watercare Headworks Manager Suzanne Naylor at one of the Mangakura Dams*

### FAST FACTS

**2643**

PEOPLE LIVE IN  
HELENSVILLE



### WINTER DEMAND



**844**

THOUSAND LITRES

of water was produced on average each day at the plant in June 2014

### SUMMER DEMAND



**ONE**

MILLION LITRES

of water was produced on average each day at the plant in January 2015





## More improvements to come at Helensville Wastewater Treatment Plant

Significant investments have been made at the Helensville Wastewater Treatment Plant as part of an infrastructure upgrade by Watercare. The \$8.4 million upgrade programme will involve a complete makeover of the plant, with the introduction of a new treatment process, installation of new equipment and construction of two new pump stations.

The plant, which was transferred to Watercare by Rodney District Council upon integration of the councils in 2010, was in poor condition and unable to cater to future growth.

Watercare has been progressively upgrading the plant; a new inlet screen, biofilter and caged-brush aerators have been installed,

all of which serve to improve the treatment process. The outfall pipe that discharges treated wastewater has been replaced. The components for a new ultra-filtration plant have been purchased and it is due to be commissioned by June 2015.

These upgrades, once completed, will improve the quality of the discharge and provide enough capacity for forecasted growth in the area.

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*Watercare process technician Mark Gibbs explains the new additions at Helensville Wastewater Treatment plant to Rodney Local Board Chair Brenda Steele.*

### CONTACT US

Helensville Matters is your newsletter. If you would like to talk to us about any stories from this edition or your ideas for future issues, we'd love to hear from you.

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### INTRODUCING SHANE GARRETT WATER SUPPLY PROCESS TECHNICIAN

#### How long have you been at Watercare?

I have been at the Helensville plant for about eight months, but have worked at Watercare doing water treatment for nearly eight years.

#### What do you do?

A wide range of things - I am a process technician so I am involved in the general day-to-day running of the plant, making sure that the treatment processes are running smoothly.

I also do a bit of lab work - testing the water with lab equipment to ensure water produced is compliant with the Drinking water Standards New Zealand (DWSNZ) as well as ordering consumables for the three plants we look after at Waitakere, Muriwai and Helensville, and keeping our compliance records up to date.

#### What do you like about working at the Helensville plant?

The Helensville plant is a conventional system that runs very well and the water quality leaving the plant is very good. I enjoy spending time here as the operating system is different from the ones that run the big plants in Auckland so I've had the opportunity to work on a new system and run it.

As a bonus, the view from the top of the clarifier is amazing as you look over Helensville and out to the Kaipara Harbour; it's really beautiful.

#### What's the best part of your job?

I enjoy my work and take pride in knowing that we supply safe and reliable water to consumers and I am part of the whole process.

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*Watercare Process Technician  
Shane Garrett atop the clarifier at  
Helensville Water Treatment Plant*