

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Wastewater Outfall Project

#### What is the Wastewater Outfall project?

A leak in the Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Pipe was discovered in 2018, 700m offshore at a point where the pipe was joined, followed by another leak, 630m offshore in April 2020. These leaks need to be repaired.

Since the leaks were discovered, Council has been monitoring the situation and planning the repairs to be undertaken by a specialist dive team. We have also applied to Hawke's Bay Regional Council for a variation to the existing wastewater discharge consent to enable an ongoing discharge at the 700m mark until the leak is fully repaired or the outfall is replaced.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council issued Napier City Council with an abatement notice about the leaks and this repair work will enable us to comply with the terms of the abatement notice.

This is one of the water projects on Council's water programme.

#### Who is doing the repair work?

A specialist commercial diving contractor, New Zealand Diving and Salvage Limited (from Wellington) is carrying out the work. They will use a large commercial diving vessel (from a distance it looks similar to a fishing boat) and a team of at least five divers per day.

The boat will set out mooring points and buoys for the duration of the repair work with a blue and white 'divers below' flag on one of the buoys.

#### How are they doing the repairs?

The contractor will firstly carry out an inspection of the pipe and the diffusers at the end of the pipe. If necessary they will clear out the diffusers to restore full discharge flow. This is a common activity that takes place several times a year. Then they will repair the leak at 630m using rubber lined clamps.

Following that the divers will repair the leak at 700m using a caulk type sealant and gasket type fitting – this is a fragile fiberglass joint that requires great care.

#### What happens with the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the meantime?

The Wastewater Treatment Plant will need to be shut down for periods throughout the repair work. This will be for short periods (90 minutes max) and will be closely managed. Shutdowns will not take place during periods of high rainfall. Local industries who carry out large quantity wastewater discharge have been informed about this.

No alternative discharge will take place during the shutdowns. The wastewater awaiting discharge will be stored within the network until the end of the shutdown window.

### **Have water users and others been told about the work?**

The Harbourmaster has issued and will continue to issue reminders about the presence of the divers and the need for an exclusion zone to be observed. This is being done through the Harbourmaster's usual channels.

We have been planning this repair for the last three months and we have Emergency Response Plans in place which cover health and safety and environmental risk management.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council, environmental agencies, local Iwi, and other affected parties are aware of this repair work.

### **When will the repair work be completed?**

The repair work to both leaks is scheduled to start on Monday 21 September 2020 and completion is planned by 30 October 2020.

This is dependent on weather conditions and sea swell.

### **What is the long term solution for the outfall pipe?**

We are continuing our planning for an eventual replacement of the outfall pipe.

### **Where can I find more information?**

More information is available on our website [www.napier.govt.nz](http://www.napier.govt.nz) search keyword #wastewateroutfall