

Julie
Muir

Plan Change 19 – Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Capacity

Summary

I will take my evidence as read and will briefly summarise this.

Council has historically had sufficient capacity to meet growth demand across networks, with upgrades primarily driven by level of service needs for compliance. This situation is now changing with upgrades required to meet growth needs.

There are a number of significant infrastructure projects that have been identified and programmed within the next ten years. These are critical to ensuring there is adequate capacity to meet the continued growth demands in both the Cromwell and Alexandra and Clyde areas.

Most of these upgrades were programmed in Councils 2021 Long Term Plan and 30 year infrastructure strategy. This plan has subsequently been developed further in 2022 and 2023 to feed into the plans for the new water entities. These entities were programmed ~~were~~ to go live on 1 July 2024.

The recent government changes to the number of entities and time for transition, along with policy direction set by other political parties means that we are currently in a period of unprecedented uncertainty regarding the priority, timing, and funding for water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades.

With this in mind, we have ^{pieced the} ~~put~~ information ~~together~~ based on our best assessment of when work is likely to proceed. Where further development would be dependent on a project being completed I have identified the ^{specific} project along with the assumed date.

In the Cromwell area the main capacity constraint is the wastewater treatment site. Recent upgrades have increased capacity to enable the growth identified in PC19. An upgrade to address nitrogen levels had been programmed for 2028. These levels are now periodically being exceeded over winter, which will be exacerbated by further growth. This project will need to be bought forward and is expected to be delivered ~~between 2025 and 2028~~.
^{around}

In Cromwell the main capacity constraint for water is the ability to provide water to service growth in the Pisa area. Significant upgrade is required to ensure that the network is configured appropriately to meet demand in this area. Design for this will commence later in 2023, with construction anticipated between 2025 and 2028. This limits growth in the Pisa area to that identified in PC19.

The Alexandra wastewater treatment plant presents the most significant constraint to growth in the Alexandra and Clyde areas. A project was included in the 2021 Long Term Plan to address this in the period between 2025 and 2028. Investigation work is currently underway on options. The cost of this project will be significantly higher than indicated in 2021 which could impact on timing. The priority for remaining capacity is the areas identified in PC19

unreticulated areas

first, with connection of ~~the rest~~ of Clyde and areas outside PC19 unable to be serviced until after the plant upgrade is complete.

There is sufficient capacity in the combined Alexandra and Clyde water supply to meet PC19 requirements, and future rural residential demand.

Some areas identified in submissions relating to Bannockburn, Clyde and Alexandra would have a disproportionate operating cost due to the need for water to be pumped. These properties are located above existing reservoirs.