

Date: Wednesday, 12 February 2025
Time: 11.45am
Meeting Room: Room 1, Level 26
Venue: Te Wharau o Tāmaki - Auckland House
135 Albert Street, Auckland

**Te Komiti mō te Kaupapa Here me te
Whakamahere / Policy and Planning Committee
Workshop - Watercare Draft Metro Servicing
Strategy (Water Supply and Wastewater)**

OPEN AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson	Cr Richard Hills	
Deputy Chairperson	Cr Angela Dalton	
Members	Houkura Member Edward Ashby	Cr Mike Lee
	Cr Andrew Baker	Cr Kerrin Leoni
	Cr Josephine Bartley	Cr Daniel Newman, JP
	Mayor Wayne Brown	Cr Greg Sayers
	Cr Chris Darby	Deputy Mayor Desley Simpson, JP
	Cr Julie Fairey	Cr Sharon Stewart, QSM
	Cr Alf Filipaina, MNZM	Cr Ken Turner
	Cr Christine Fletcher, QSO	Cr Wayne Walker
	Cr Lotu Fuli	Cr John Watson
	Houkura Member Hon Tau Henare	Cr Maurice Williamson
	Cr Shane Henderson	

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5 February 2025

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Workshops enable staff to explore options with elected members before ideas are fully developed, and to receive feedback and guidance on policy development or project design. No resolutions or decisions are made by elected members at workshops and so the requirements of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 relating to local authority meetings do not apply.

Note: The reports contained within this agenda are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Members require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.

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Agenda Items

1 Ngā Tamōtanga | Apologies

2 Te Whakapuaki i te Whai Pānga | Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

Workshop: Watercare Draft Metro Servicing Strategy (Water Supply and Wastewater)

File No.: CP2025/00577

- Note 1: This workshop has been called by the chairperson in consultation with the staff.
- Note 2: No working party/workshop may reach any decision or adopt any resolution unless specifically directed to do so.

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

- The purpose of the workshop is to:
 - to receive feedback on Watercare’s development of a Metropolitan Servicing Strategy and update the committee on Watercare’s proposed engagement approach for the Strategy.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

- The following will be covered in the workshop:

Item
Development of the Watercare Metro Servicing Strategy (Water and Wastewater) Priyan Perera, Watercare Overview of the development of the strategy, it’s purpose and scope. Memo attached with an overview of both items
The engagement process planned for the Watercare Metro Servicing Strategy (Water and Wastewater) Brent Evans, Watercare Engagement approach and timeline for the Watercare Metro Servicing Strategy.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A1	Memorandum - Watercare’s metropolitan servicing strategy, 5 February 2025	5



Memorandum

To: Policy and Planning Committee

From: Priyan Perera – Chief Strategy and Planning Officer, Watercare

Subject: Watercare’s metropolitan servicing strategy

Date: 05/02/2025

Purpose

1. To inform Auckland Council’s Policy and Planning Committee about the approach and programme associated with the development of Watercare’s metropolitan servicing strategy and the community engagement process.

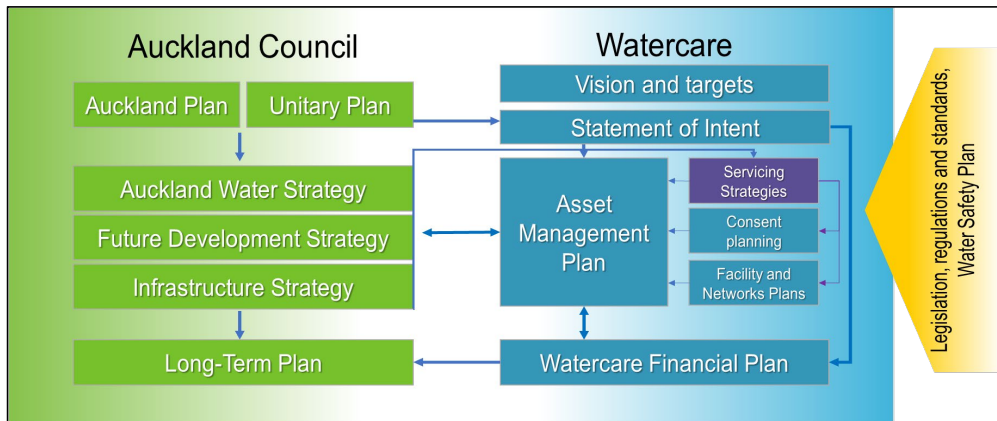
Summary

2. Watercare is developing a metropolitan servicing strategy to help guide our long-term infrastructure investments. This will ensure that we can provide safe, resilient, and affordable water and wastewater services for Watercare’s metropolitan servicing area for the next 70+ years.
3. This memo informs the Committee of the work that has been started and will progress over 2025.
4. To initiate the public engagement phase of this strategy, we would like the Committee to be aware of, closely connected to, and provide support and advocacy for the strategy.

Context

5. In 2022, the Auckland Water Strategy laid a foundation for managing Auckland’s waters to 2050. Sitting below the Auckland Water Strategy, Watercare has servicing strategies that set out high-level direction and show possible options and future scenarios for Auckland’s drinking water and wastewater management.
6. Watercare’s servicing strategies aim to give effect to the goals and strategic shifts that the Auckland Water Strategy has set. Our servicing strategy approach contributes to further enhancing alignment, consistency and collaboration between Auckland Council and Watercare.
7. Our intent is that these servicing strategies are ‘living’ documents, adapting to changing environment, policy and regulatory expectations.
8. These servicing strategies aim to be mainly ‘outward facing’. They are designed to provide context regarding the challenges we face and encourage our elected representatives, iwi partners, and the community to engage in addressing these challenges.
9. The servicing strategies set the direction and boundaries for other Watercare plans including our Asset Management Plan, network plans, and water and wastewater treatment plant plans (as shown below).

1 of 5

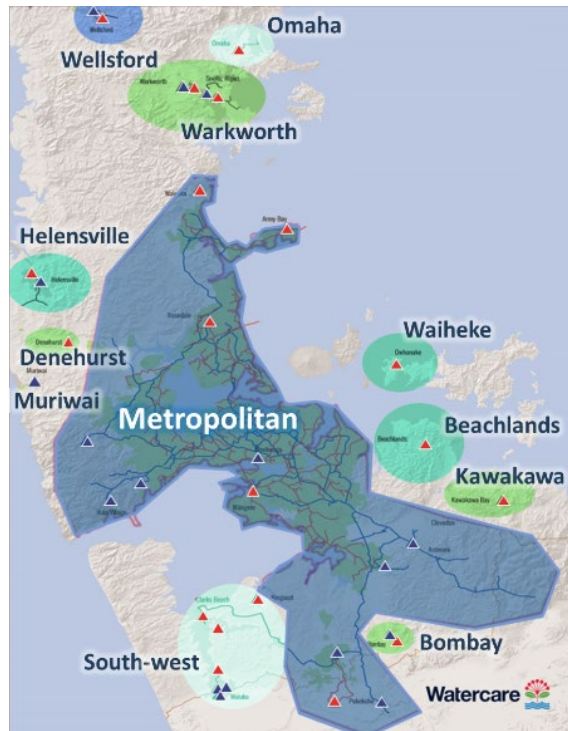


Discussion

10. We have tried, based on the connectivity of our water and wastewater services, to create a 'community/township centric' servicing strategy structure. Watercare has 12 servicing strategies (as outlined in the below map). These are in different stages of development as shown in the table below. This memo is only about the metropolitan servicing strategy.

Externally engaged and completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helensville and Parakai • Beachlands, Maeratai, Whitford • Waiheke
Ready for external engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan
Internal draft being reviewed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warkworth • Wellsford • Omaha • Dennehurst • Bombay • Kawakawa bay
Not started yet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South-west communities* • Muriwai

* while the south-west communities are connected to the metropolitan water network, due to the significant growth that is projected for this area, we are developing a separate servicing strategy to cater to the specific needs of these communities.



11. All our servicing strategies follow a four-step development process as outlined below:
 - 1) **Phase 1 – Internal draft**

Staff from across Watercare collaborate to review our existing plans and commitments to provide the context and an overview of the system and key challenges. To ensure our key values and principles align with those of the community, from the beginning we engage with iwi, the Auckland Council and Local Boards.
 - 2) **Phase 2 – External engagement**

We present a summary of the long-term water and wastewater challenges to the public for their views and listen to their feedback and ideas.
 - 3) **Phase 3 – Implementing public feedback**

We revise our servicing strategies based on the feedback we receive and publish it as final.
 - 4) **Phase 4 – Review and update cycle**

We review and update the strategies to reflect changes in our operating, and regulatory environment, in response to key trends (e.g. population and climate).

The Metropolitan Servicing Strategy

12. Within the next few years, we need to make important decisions to address our future water challenges:
 - a. We need to engage with Aucklanders about future water sources for our city.
 - b. We must improve our wastewater system to be able to better manage growth in the region, and how and where treated wastewater is discharged.
 - c. We need to engage with the public about our biosolids strategy and find a new solution for the management of biosolids after the Puketutu Island Rehabilitation Project is completed.
13. In the metropolitan servicing strategy, we do not provide once-and-for-all solutions to these challenges. Through an adaptive planning approach, we lay out where we are, talk to the challenges we face, talk about the relative costs and benefits of possible ways forward, and offer a decision-making framework to help us better understand the potential consequences of pathways. This is so we can have an ongoing dialogue about our shared aspirations for the future, consider new and evolving technologies, and do our best to prepare for what lies ahead.

Stakeholder and Community Engagement

14. The engagement aims to bring communities and stakeholders into the conversation about how Auckland's water and wastewater services will need to evolve to meet future needs. Engagement with our community goes beyond our legal obligations. It provides significant value in building trust and social license, raising awareness of the issues we face, and getting Aucklanders to understand the part they play in a regional context. Our engagement has the following key goals:
 - **Raise Awareness and understanding:** Ensure that we are building knowledge and understanding about the future water challenges and the trade-offs involved in long-term water servicing. We are emphasising that solutions are a shared responsibility.
 - **Understand Community and Stakeholder Perspectives:** Capture values, priorities, and concerns about the future of water and wastewater services.
 - **Build Relationships and Trust:** Demonstrate that Watercare is listening, being transparent, and considering feedback that will be integrated into the strategy.
 - **Go beyond legal obligations:** While we are required to engage with the community during the consenting process, we believe that proactive and meaningful engagement beyond legal requirements will lead to better long-term outcomes for all parties.

Engagement with Mana Whenua

15. In the process of developing the metropolitan servicing strategy, we are engaging closely with iwi mana whenua to incorporate their principles and values in the decision-making framework as well as the long-term options that we consider. We engage with Mana Whenua early to ensure their voices are integrated into the strategy. We recognise the cultural and ancestral relationship that iwi have with the environment that we are using to provide services to people of Auckland, particularly:

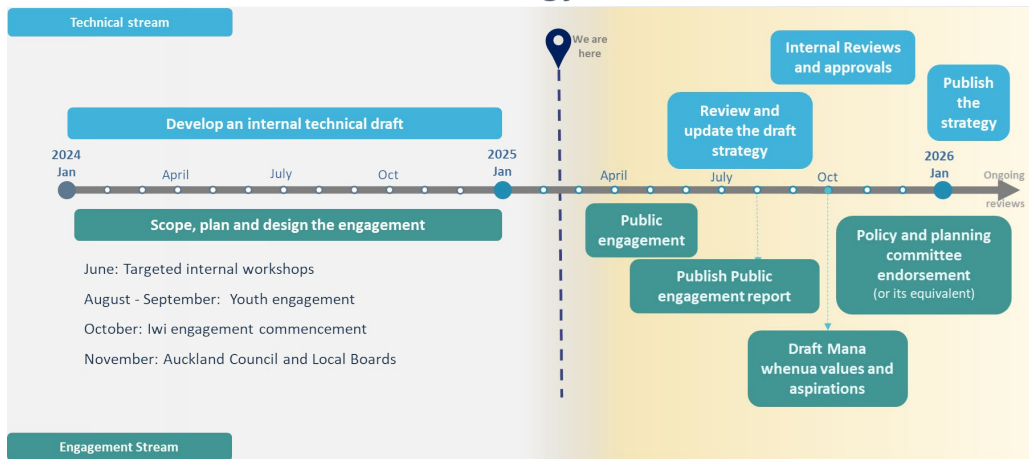
- Manukau Harbour – to discharge treated wastewater from Māngere wastewater treatment plant;
- Hauraki Gulf – to discharge treated wastewater from Rosedale and Army Bay wastewater treatment plants;
- Waikato River – To take water for supplying drinking water and to discharge treated wastewater from Pukekohe wastewater treatment plant.
- Waitākere and Hunua Ranges – To take water for supplying drinking water.

16. With the help and support of our Te Rua Whetu iwi engagement team, we have identified those Iwi with an interest in each of these environments and kaupapa and commenced engagement. We will work with them to develop our long-term strategies. In 2024 we invited all 19 Mana Whenua to Parakuihi (breakfast) in Oct 2024, to share the future water challenges and to help us understand their interest levels in engaging with us for the strategy. We held an event in the South and the North in which 10 Mana Whenua representatives attended.

Next Steps

17. Below is a timeline that highlights key activities, milestones and the next steps. We are involving various stakeholders in the decision-making process and ensuring transparent communication throughout the project.

Metro strategy timeline



2025	February	Engage with Auckland Council Policy and Planning Committee
	March-May	Public engagement on the draft strategy
	June -July	Analyse public feedback and develop a public engagement report

	August	Publish engagement report, implement changes to the strategy based on the public engagement
	August-Nov	Internal reviews of the final strategy
	Nov-Dec	Governing Body endorsement of the final strategy (exact process TBC)
2026	Jan-Feb	Watercare Board approval of the final strategy and publication

18. It is crucial that our elected representatives, including the Mayor, Councillors, Local Boards, and the Policy and Planning, and Transport, Resilience, and Infrastructure committees, are well-informed, closely connected to, and actively engaged with these strategies to ensure its successful implementation.
19. Watercare will continue to keep the Mayor and Councillors informed as the development of the metropolitan servicing strategy progresses. We expect there will be regular updates at each stage.