

August 2017

Project update

Since our contractors Fulton Hogan started work in April, they've made good progress installing the main network in the residential area of Pokeno township covered by the Pokeno Wastewater Reticulation Phase II Project. They have now started private connections to properties and as a whole the entire project is about 75% complete. The expected completion date is September/October 2017.

Can I still connect?

For those who have not signed up to the Phase II Wastewater Reticulation Scheme, there is still time to connect while taking advantage of the 50% subsidy offered by Council. If you are one of those who are interested in connecting, please contact the project manager, Paul White on paul.white@waidc.govt.nz, to arrange an on-site meeting. **You have until 1 September 2017.**

How much will it cost?

As mentioned, Council is paying half, until construction in your area is complete. If you decide to connect after the construction phase you will need to pay the total cost of connection.

Residential Connection Cost (Capital Contribution)

Total cost	\$27,237
Less subsidy	\$13,618
Actual cost	\$13,619 including GST

What does this cost cover?

- Connection to the new system
- Decommissioning of the existing septic system and reinstatement to match existing surface
- Contribution towards public infrastructure to provide a reticulated wastewater system to the Pokeno township

How can you pay your contribution?

You have two payment options to choose from. Either three lump sum payments over one rating year, or by annual instalments over 10 years, including interest. Connection to the system isn't mandatory. If your property is suitable for on-site treatment and disposal, this could still be used. But if the pipeline runs past your property and you choose not to connect, you'll still need to pay an annual availability charge. This will be half the annual targeted rate that covers operational costs of the wastewater system.

Respecting Pokeno's heritage

Pokeno is an area of huge historical significance due to its position as a Maori settlement area and a key strategic point for European forces in the New Zealand Wars in the 1860s. Given this history there is a potential that pre-1900 buried archaeological remains of Maori and European occupation might be found in parts of Pokeno. Because of this potential, archaeological monitoring and cultural protocols are key parts of the Pokeno Wastewater Phase II Project. Ngaati Tamaoho along with archaeologist Alexy Simmons briefed contractors Fulton Hogan, Council staff and local residents about what was required before contractors headed into the area surrounding Queen's Redoubt. Teams were fully engaged and expressed an interest in what may be found as work progresses. All present at the meeting were keen to know more about the history of Pokeno.

Timely reminders

As we approach the end of the project, we feel it is prudent to remind those people who have decided not to join the scheme to ensure their septic tanks are regularly maintained. It is also a good time to say that what the public flushes down the toilet, and down the kitchen sink, has the potential to affect Council's wastewater system and private septic tanks.

About 80% of wastewater overflows from Council's wastewater network are caused by blockages. Always remember – only flush pee, poo and (toilet) paper down the loo. Dispose of things like wipes, sanitary pads and all other foreign objects in the bin. And think at the sink after cooking. Oils and animal fats should not go down the sink. Soak it up in kitchen paper and put it in the bin.

And finally.....

We at Waikato District Council would just like to say a big thank-you to the community of Pokeno for their patience and co-operation during this project so far.

Stay informed

If you want to receive updates about the project, send your email address to Pokeno.Scheme@waidc.govt.nz or go to www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/pokenowastewater Or you can contact project manager Paul White on paul.white@waidc.govt.nz