

# #theBIG Water Story

## Programme Update

Launched in 2018, #thebigwaterstory set about investigating and assessing the condition and state of our district's water assets. We faced the facts in the 2021–2031 Long Term Plan and began changing the way in which we fund the replacement and upgrade of our assets, particularly our ageing drinking water infrastructure. With reservoirs at the end of their design life and ageing pipeline infrastructure no longer fit for purpose due to historic underinvestment, a significant programme of works to address these issues was planned and initiated, and will continue throughout our next three-year plan.

The following update highlights Council's major investment and renewals across the district's drinking water network over the past three years.

We welcome your questions and feedback: please email us at [customerservice@chbdc.govt.nz](mailto:customerservice@chbdc.govt.nz)



Want to learn more? Scan the QR code to find out more on what we've been doing in our district to improve our water network.



## Highlights over the past three years

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**10.2 km**  
NEW PIPE  
INSTALLED
- 1**  
NEW WATER  
TREATMENT  
PLANT
- 142**  
NEW VALVES  
INSTALLED
- 150 m<sup>3</sup>**  
INCREASED WATER  
CAPACITY/STORAGE  
(KAIRAKAU)
- \$16.7 million**  
INVESTED IN OUR  
WATER PROJECTS  
(COMBINATION OF RATES  
AND OTHER FUNDING)

Project	Status	Start date	End date	Cost
<b>1</b> <b>Waipawa Water Firefighting, Stages 1 &amp; 2</b> New pipeline (1.3 km) from reservoir to Matthew/Abbotsford streets intersection	Complete	Sept 2021	June 2022	\$493,672
<b>2</b> <b>Waipukurau/Waipawa Second Supply</b> Water treatment plant upgrade; central reservoir (3 M litres), access track (1.1 km), platform (2,600 m <sup>3</sup> ) & rising main; falling main to Waipukurau	Ongoing	Aug 2021		\$6.346 million committed (\$5.844 million spend to date)
<b>3</b> <b>Pourerere Road Water Main Extension to Waipawa WWTP</b> 1,460 m new pipe	Complete	Sept 2021	Mar 2022	\$496,189
<b>4</b> <b>Kairakau Water Supply Upgrade</b> New water treatment plant; replaced 2 raw water tanks; 4 new treated water tanks; water softeners; ground works	Complete	Oct 2020	July 2023	\$1.868 million (\$600,000 externally funded)
<b>5</b> <b>Pōrangahau Road Water Supply Upgrade</b> 1.748 km PE pipe; servicing 49 private connections	Ongoing	July 2022	Planned completion Dec 2024	\$1.808 million spend to date
<b>6</b> <b>Great North Road Water Supply Upgrade</b> 214 m PE pipe; servicing 8 private connections	Complete	Nov 2022	Sept 2023	\$448,108
<b>7</b> <b>Waipawa Water Mains Renewal</b> Rising main to reservoir & Mathew Street	Ongoing	July 2022	Planned completion June 2025	\$890,741 spend to date

## Project Spotlights

### Pōrangahau Road Water Renewal

Ninety-five percent complete, this \$1.808 million (to date) major infrastructural renewal has addressed known challenges related to the network's reliability and resilience, as well as improved performance for the growing Waipukurau community.

All new water mains and service laterals have been installed, replacing the old and failing cast iron and AC water supply network with 1.748 kilometres of new, more resilient PE pipe

along Pōrangahau Road, servicing 49 private connections. The project and three waters teams are working together to programme the final component of this key infrastructure upgrade.



### Kairakau Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

Identified as a key project in #thebigwaterstory, Kairakau's new water treatment plant was installed in March 2023, bringing improved water quality and a robust, reliable water system to the area. Supported by external funding, the local community now benefits from a safer, more usable potable water supply that complies with NZ Drinking Water Standards; improved water quality by reducing water hardness; remote monitoring capabilities; and increased water storage to support tourism during summer months.

### Waipawa Water Mains Renewal

This vital water renewal project has addressed the challenges posed by the aged infrastructure on the Waipawa and Otāne water supply network.

Several pipeline renewal projects have been completed since 2021 to upgrade old, critical assets and service planned future growth in the area, including:

- the rising main from the water treatment plant on Tikokino Road (2.84 kilometres replaced and another 1.4 kilometres scheduled for replacement this year), which will complete the full renewal of this critical asset and ensure resilient water supply to Waipawa and Otāne.
- the old and failing AC water supply network on Great North Road, which has been replaced with 214 metres of new, more resilient PE pipe servicing eight private connections.



### Waipukurau Second Water Supply

This major water project aims to provide resilience, increase capacity, support growth and ultimately future-proof Waipukurau's drinking water network by adding a second supply. To date, we have invested \$5.844 million in resource consents; construction of the new central reservoir platform and access track to the central reservoir; land agreements; 90% of designs of the rising and falling mains; concept designs for the relocation of the water treatment plant; geotechnical investigation to inform river crossings; and procurement of reservoir suppliers. Given its size and complexity, the project is being rephased as we work through the new three-year plan this year.

## Challenges

The impacts of affordability, the repeal of the Water Reforms Programme and ongoing recovery post-Cyclone Gabrielle have meant that we have had to prioritise our most urgent and critical water projects, with others needing to be rephased.

Ensuring that our drinking water infrastructure is resilient and continues to consistently provide safe drinking water requires significant investment.

Much of Council's infrastructure is considerably aged, at the end of its useful life and/or is at risk of failure, all of which present ongoing challenges operationally and require ongoing focus to maintain consistent supply.