

Days Bay wastewater overflow incident

August 16, 2024

Works Status Update

Our crews have been working very hard this week and while good progress has been made on the repair, work to fully reinstate the network will continue into next week.

This is based on a detailed assessment of the condition of the pipe and pump station following excavation of the site, which has confirmed the extent and complexity of the repair.

Work is proceeding to repair the failed pipes in parallel as follows:

- Fix valve connecting outfall to the Days Bay pump station. This will enable the main outfall pipeline to be refilled and returned to operation, stopping discharge of treated wastewater to the Waiwhetu Stream.
- Repair pipe and valves from the Days Bay pump station to fully reinstate the network and return to normal processing and service.

At this stage, we are expecting work to recommission the main outfall pipeline and stop discharge of treated wastewater to Waiwhetu Stream, to be completed by mid to late next week.

We are aiming for a full reinstatement of the network by 26 August. The indicative timeline has been updated and is attached for your reference, noting this is based on the current situation and may be subject to change.

The latest sampling results are showing, that water quality has improved with three days of clear results from all the sites that were being monitored this week. Restrictions remain in place, and we will continue to monitor this especially with heavy rain predicted for over the weekend.

We have meanwhile continued with a high frequency of communications and engagement with the community and stakeholders to keep them informed.

This includes liaising closely with the Department of Conservation on the welfare and safety of the penguins who are near the Days Bay pump station.

Our customer team have engaged proactively with fishers to highlight the risks at Waione Bridge. Sucker trucks sited at Days Bay can be noisy and so our customer team have also been out talking directly with residents impacted by the movement of the sucker trucks. Councils have been updated regularly throughout the week on the progress of repair work.

The weekend

In the interests of our crews' health and well-being, we are standing them down from midday tomorrow (Saturday). It's been a huge week, and we want to acknowledge their hard work and give them a well-deserved and much needed break. Skeleton staff will continue to monitor the site over the weekend, and unless anything significant happens, the team will recommence work on the repair on Monday morning.

Milestone	Activity	Impact	Status
Initial response	Tankers mobilised at York Bay & Port Arthur.	Reduce discharge of wastewater to environment.	COMPLETED
	Outfall pipe fully drained.	Enable site excavation to expose pipe.	COMPLETED
Assessment	Excavate to expose pipe.	Identify extent of damage and work required to repair.	14 August COMPLETED
Reconfigure pump station operation	York Bay & Port Arthur.	Stop overflow to environment and resume normal processing. at the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant.	13 August COMPLETED
Recommission outfall	Fix valve connecting outfall connection to Days Bay. Main outfall pipeline refilled and returned to operation.	Stop discharges to Waiwhetū Stream.	23 August (estimated)
Full reinstatement of network	Repair pipe and valves from the Days Bay pump station.	Normal processing in network resumes.	26 August (estimated)

ENDS