

Days Bay wastewater overflow incident

August 14, 2024

Indicative timeline for full network reinstatement

Wellington Water crews are working urgently to fix the wastewater leak at the Days Bay pump station. This is a complex repair that requires methodical planning and approach.

We are doing all we can to minimise the impacts on the environment and community. Getting on top of this repair and keeping our crews and the public safe is our priority.

It is difficult to place a definitive timeline for the work to reinstate the network fully.

This is due to the challenging location of the site and complexity of the repair in a coastal environment with multiple connected pump stations. The outfall pipeline is aging, and site accessibility is compromised with nearby underground services (power etc.) in the road.

In addition, a critical valve requiring repair is situated in a deep location on the edge of the carriageway.

Given these circumstances, we must proceed with caution to ensure the safety of the public and our crews. Our focus is on avoiding further damage or disruption to the network and other services during the repair works.

Below is an indicative timeline that our crews are working towards to ensure full reinstatement of the network. This involves several streams of work being undertaken, some in parallel and others sequentially to achieve the following milestones:

- Stop the discharge of untreated wastewater to the environment from York Bay and Point Arthur pump stations.
- Stop the discharge of untreated wastewater from the Days Bay pump station.
- Repair to the main outfall connection to stop the discharge of treated wastewater to the Waiwhetū Stream.
- Repair of the pipeline / valves / connections at the Days Bay pump station to resume normal operation.

The following estimated timelines are based on current assessments and the anticipated scope of works as we progress through each milestone. The incident management team remains in place as we work towards full reinstatement of the network.

*Please note, this timeline may be subject to change as it can be impacted by new issues identified, weather and tidal events. We will provide regular updates on progress of this work, and any issues that could impact the timeline.

Milestone	Activity	Impact	Start	Status
Initial response	Tankers mobilised at York Bay & Port Arthur.	Reduce discharge of wastewater to environment.	11 August	COMPLETED
	Outfall pipe fully drained.	Enable site excavation to expose pipe.	11 August	COMPLETED

Assessment	Excavate to expose pipe.	Identify extent of damage and work required to repair.	12 August	14 August IN PROGRESS
Reconfigure pump station operation	York Bay & Port Arthur.	Stop overflow to environment and resume normal processing at the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant.	12 August	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.	14 August (estimated)	18 August (estimated)
Full reinstatement of network	Repair pipe and valves from the Days Bay pump station.	Normal processing in network resumes.	15 August (estimated)	21 August (estimated)

ENDS