

Water supply resilience

STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

Planning for a speedy emergency response

Work is progressing well on scoping projects to improve the resilience of the Wellington region's water supply network. A series of projects will be put forward for councils to consider, alongside their other investment priorities, as they develop their 2018-28 Long Term Plans.

As well as projects to strengthen the water supply network, we're also investigating ways to improve the speed and nature of emergency response and repairs.

Accessing replacement equipment in an emergency

Having quick access to equipment in an emergency will help speed up response and repairs. One of the projects being considered as part of the programme business case involves investigating how we can improve our response by storing important equipment closer to where it might be needed. Current emergency equipment storage is mostly in the Hutt Valley on the eastern side of the fault line, so getting pipes and pumps to where they're likely to be needed after a major earthquake could be a challenge. New site locations are being looked at in three areas; Porirua, West Wellington in Johnsonville/Karori, and East Wellington in Miramar/Kilbirnie. Having the right equipment in the right place with a work space available will allow the water network recovery to proceed more quickly across the region.

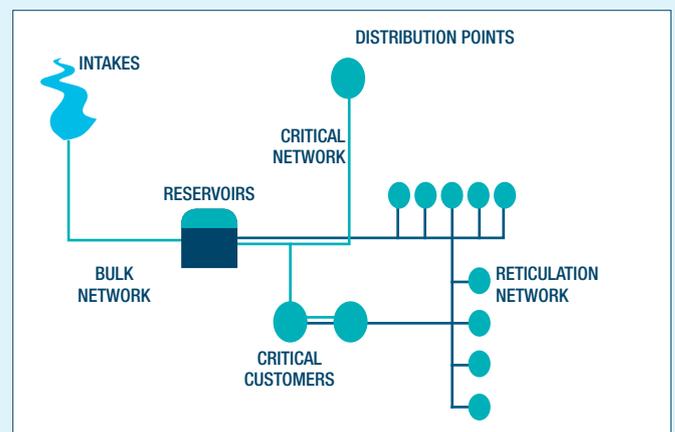


Equipment storage at the Pomare Depot.

Building a critical network

Investigating a critical network to deliver potable water to critical customers and distribution points from day eight after an emergency is a high-priority resilience project. Following a major earthquake, it could take up to a week for engineers to inspect the network and open or close valves so a basic level of potable water delivery could be achieved. It's likely that a considerable portion of the existing water supply network will be damaged and some areas will be without water for extended periods. A highly resilient network is being designed to deliver water to critical customers, such as hospitals, and to provide 20 litres of water per person/per day to residents for collection from distribution points scattered across the region.

At this stage, it looks like the critical network will include both replacing some existing pipes as well as installing new, more resilient sections. Installing more automatic shut-off valves at reservoirs so they save their held water will also feature in the new resilient network.



Schematic of proposed critical network

Business survey – last days to respond

WIN

1 of 5 emergency water storage tanks!

Thank you to everyone who has already responded to the water self-sufficiency survey we released last month. The last day to respond is Friday 30 September so you still have a chance to complete the survey and be in to win one of the five 200L and one 800L emergency water storage tanks sponsored by The Tank Guy. Follow this URL <http://svy.mk/2bl7usg> to fill in the survey and be in to win!

Self-sufficiency message reinforced

The revelation reported on the front page of the *Dominion Post* 17 September should come as no surprise. The Wellington Region Emergency Management Office approach of empowerment in the community is based on the lessons arising from Christchurch and overseas, and is designed to best enable our communities to respond to and recover from whatever misfortune we experience; be it a serious earthquake or the more frequent occurrences of storms, floods and utility outages.

The small emergency hubs in our communities, frequently located at schools or churches, are designed as a gathering place for residents to come together, organise to support each other, and to share information with the Emergency Operations Centres located in each council area. They were never designed to provide mass accommodation or provide food for communities.

The key message for residents and businesses is that everyone needs to store at least seven days' supply of water, food plus other necessary supplies for emergency purposes. For more information, go to www.getprepared.org.nz.



Selwyn Blackmore, new Project Director



Due to the recent transfer of Ulvi Salayev to a project delivery role, we welcome Selwyn Blackmore as the new Project Director for the Water Supply Resilience programme. He brings energy and enthusiasm to the role and will continue the focus on overseeing project planning and execution, as well as keeping project sponsors and stakeholders informed and involved.

Selwyn has a background in energy, telecommunications and transport planning. He has led several large policy and infrastructure development projects, and has significant stakeholder liaison experience. As a self-confessed sports nut, Selwyn spends much of his spare time transporting his four children to their various sporting commitments and coaching their cricket, football, rugby and basketball teams.