IAWAI

Fairfield Park underground bulk wastewater storage

We're planning to build a wastewater storage facility beneath the south-western area of Fairfield Park, near Heaphy Terrace.

This project is needed in this location as part of the city-wide bulk wastewater storage programme that will help Hamilton's wastewater network support our growing city, protect people and the environment, and meet regulatory requirements.

The Fairfield storage facility will be made up of a large storage tank, an overflow chamber in Heaphy Terrace, and pipes running between the overflow chamber and the storage tank. All of the facility will be located underground and will create temporary storage capacity to help manage wastewater flows, reduce wastewater overflows to the local environment, and support the operation of the Pukete Wastewater Treatment Plant. All of this will improve the resilience of Hamilton's wastewater network and ultimately benefit the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

During periods of heavy rain, the storage tank will temporarily hold diluted wastewater when flows exceed the capacity of the main wastewater network. In these heavy rainfall events, diluted wastewater from the Eastern Interceptor (a major wastewater pipe beneath Heaphy Terrace) will flow through the new overflow chamber and into the storage tank. The diluted wastewater will then be stored until capacity in the wastewater network becomes available again.

Once water levels in the wastewater network reduce, the stored wastewater will be pumped back into the network and conveyed to the Pukete Wastewater Treatment Plant. The underground storage tank will then be automatically cleaned and returned to standby mode.

The underground storage facility will only operate during wet weather events and will remain empty at other times. Routine maintenance will need to be carried out on the underground storage tank from time to time.

For more info

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Key

- Property boundary
- Designation and construction area
- Existing trees - some will be removed or trimmed
- Storage tank - 4000m³
- Future storage tank - 2000m³
- Above ground infrastructure/ cabinets
- Underground pipe to connect to Eastern interceptor
- Eastern interceptor
- Overflow chamber

Facility details

Capacity: approx. 4 million litres, with space for a second tank in future if required.

Size: approx. 20m diameter by 20m deep

Location: Under the southwestern edge of Fairfield Park by Heaphy Terrace where the Eastern Interceptor (the main wastewater line for eastern Hamilton) is located.

While the tank design is still underway, we do know it will be:

- built from reinforced concrete with waterproof lining
- completely underground. There will be maintenance equipment like cabinets and a transformer above ground, and some tank access hatches that will be flush with the ground level.
- fully sealed and designed to prevent odour issues

Planning and approvals

IAWAI has lodged a planning application called a Notice of Requirement with Hamilton City Council to designate the necessary part of Fairfield Park for wastewater management purposes. It is important to understand that the designated part of Fairfield Park will still retain its park status, and will still be available for public access and use after the construction works have finished.

The public will have an opportunity to participate in that application process.

Resource consent applications have also been lodged with Waikato Regional Council to support the construction works.

Construction

Construction of the first storage tank, the overflow chamber and the pipes between them is currently planned for 2028 and is expected to take around two years. During this time:

- the southwestern part of Fairfield Park will be temporarily unavailable for public access and use.
- construction will be carefully managed to minimise disruption.
- the community and key stakeholders will be kept informed about timing, progress and any impacts

After construction has finished, the affected part of Fairfield Park will be returned to a grassy open area available for public access and use in the long-term.

Construction of the second smaller underground storage tank, if it is required, is likely to be more than 20 years away.

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