



Process technician Scott Llewelyn at the Waikato Water Treatment Plant.

Looking after our water

Scott Llewelyn has lived in Franklin for 25 years; he grew up in Patumahoe and now lives in Pukekohe. He is a process technician at the Waikato Water Treatment Plant in Tuakau.

What does a process technician do?

I'm involved with most aspects of operating the water treatment plants in Franklin and Tuakau. I make sure they are working at their optimal levels, troubleshoot any issues that may arise during the treatment process and manage the chemicals that we use to treat the water. Basically I'm responsible for ensuring the water treatment process is maintained to a consistently high standard.

What is your favourite part of the job?

I am in my element when I'm troubleshooting an issue. I really enjoy the process of investigating a problem and working out how to solve it – especially if it's a particularly tricky one!

What is a challenging part of your job?

My role involves being rostered on-call during certain weeks, so getting out of bed at 2am for a call-out can be quite challenging! However, when you get to the site and fix the problem it can also be one of the most rewarding parts of the job.

How did you get into this career?

My dad worked for Watercare for many years

and when the position became available he recommended it to me as a good place to work and good career to get into. I initially didn't know anything about the process, but over the past six years I've been working for Watercare, I've grown to be quite passionate about water treatment.

What advice would you give others wanting to become a process technician?

Make sure that you develop your hands-on as well as your technical skills, as a balance of both is very much required.

Did you have to have any particular qualifications to be a process technician?

I've completed a 'Certificate in Water Treatment – Level 4' and a 'Diploma in Water Treatment – Level 5' while working at Watercare. I'm lucky to now be training and mentoring staff myself.

What do you like about working for Watercare?

I am proud to work at the Waikato Water Treatment Plant and to have been involved in the upgrades that have doubled its production capacity.

I like the support that Watercare provides for staff, too. As a new dad with a young family, Watercare has supported me well with parental leave and allowed me the flexibility to be more involved in family life.

How you can help keep Franklin's wastewater flowing

We plan the size of an area's wastewater network based on the expected population growth of that area. But when extra water, such as what drains from buildings and roads during periods of heavy rain, enters the wastewater network it can exceed the planned capacity and cause overflows. This is when diluted wastewater can spill onto private properties and the wider environment, affecting your health and your family's health, as well as polluting your property and Franklin's waterways.

We call these wet-weather overflows because they only occur during heavy rain.

We all have a role in reducing wet-weather overflows.

You can ensure extra water is not entering the wastewater network from your property by checking these two things:

- that the downpipes from your roof are separate to your wastewater pipes, and
- that your gully trap is above ground level.

We're inspecting public and private stormwater and wastewater connections where the impact of stormwater leaking into the wastewater pipes and wastewater leaking out is the greatest. This is part of an Auckland-wide programme to reduce wet-weather overflows.



As part of our inspections, we may blow non-toxic smoke down wastewater pipes on properties. This will pinpoint any places where stormwater is entering our wastewater network – like the leaky pipe in the ground shown above.

CONTACT US

Franklin Matters is your newsletter.

If you would like to talk to us about any stories from this edition or your ideas for future issues, we'd love to hear from you. To get in touch, please phone our communications team on (09) 442 2222 or email info@water.co.nz.

FRANKLIN MATTERS



Watercare's James Eardley (second left) gives a guided tour of the new Buckland Wastewater Pump Station to Franklin Board members Angela Fulljames (left) and Andy Baker (far right), as well as Deputy Mayor and Franklin Ward Councillor Bill Cashmore.

Major investments for growing Franklin

At least 45,000 people are expected to make Franklin their home over the next 30 years. As the population grows, so does the demand for water and wastewater services.

To ensure our services are ready for this demand, we're investing more than \$380 million in the local water supply and wastewater networks. Some of these projects have already been completed, benefiting the current communities, while others are in the planning stages, as we work towards sustainable long-term solutions for Franklin.

When we took over the water and wastewater networks from the Franklin District Council in 2010, many of the necessary upgrades hadn't been carried out because the relatively small customer base couldn't fund the work. Much of the drinking water in Franklin did not meet the Ministry of Health's Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand and there had been long-standing complaints about the area's water colour and quality. As well

as the water quality issues, some treatment plants were unable to produce enough water to meet demand at peak times, let alone accommodate population growth.

Our first priority was to bring Franklin's water quality up to standard. We undertook a four-year, \$116-million project that connected the local water networks with Auckland's metropolitan water supply and upgraded rural water treatment plants. Completed in 2015, this guaranteed a safe and reliable water supply for the area.

"This is an excellent example of how the Auckland-wide integration of water and wastewater services benefited rural communities," chief executive Raveen Jaduram says. "We've invested millions in upgrades for rural areas like Franklin to ensure all Aucklanders receive the best-quality drinking water."

With everyone in Franklin now receiving 'Aa'-graded drinking water, our focus has moved to the wastewater network, where we're spending more than \$270 million. We recently began

work to increase the capacity of Pukekohe's main wastewater pipeline. Our proposed South-West Wastewater Servicing Project will give us the ability to treat the extra wastewater generated by growing communities.

Franklin is a vital part of the Auckland region, with its rich agricultural land, distance to the city and space for growth.

"The scale of Watercare's investment shows its commitment to Franklin," Deputy Mayor and Franklin Ward Councillor, Bill Cashmore, says. "Improving services like water and wastewater is central to growing healthy communities where people are proud to live, work and play. This benefits current Franklin residents, as well as future generations who will make their homes there."

Our investment in Franklin

\$116m water

\$278m wastewater

What's going on in Franklin?

Since 2010, we've invested \$116 million in upgrading the area's water supply network to ensure safe and reliable drinking water. We've also set aside \$278 million to improve the wastewater network. Some of this work is currently under way, while other projects are in the planning stages.

2013
2014
2015
Completed

Franklin water supply upgrade

We connected towns to the metropolitan supply and improved rural water treatment plants. The area now enjoys a safe and reliable 'Aa'-graded water supply.

The upgrade also ensured Franklin's water supply network can meet future demands as the area grows.

Completed in 2015



\$116 million spent

'Aa' grade drinking water



493km of water pipes in Franklin



2016
2017

Pukekohe wastewater network upgrade

More and more people are making Franklin their home, which means the existing wastewater pipeline is now at capacity. We're building two new wastewater pumping stations, putting in 6.4 kilometres of new pipes and relining 1.2 kilometres of the existing pipeline to handle future demand. Together, this work will increase the capacity of the wastewater network and service around 36,000 people in Pukekohe.





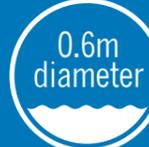
Underway



6.4km of new pipes



0.6m diameter



2 new pump stations



Project value **\$54 million**

Planning for the future

FAST FACTS

IN 2013, THE POPULATION OF SOUTH-WEST FRANKLIN WAS

12,500.



THIS IS EXPECTED TO RISE TO

30,000 PEOPLE BY 2051.

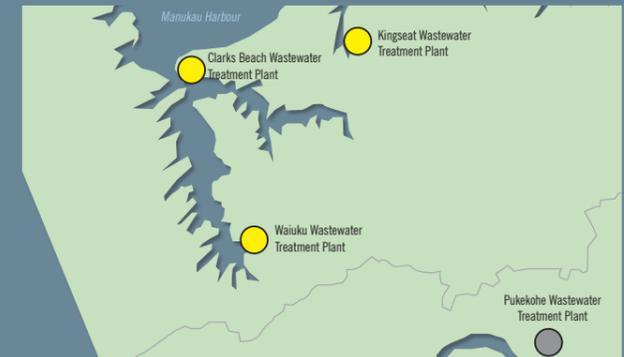
THATS A

140% INCREASE!

There are currently three wastewater treatment plants servicing the south-west Franklin area. They are all operating effectively but as the population in this area is expected to grow to 30,000 by 2051, we need a long-term and sustainable way to manage and treat the extra wastewater generated from these growing communities.

The South-West Wastewater Servicing Project involves looking at how our wastewater network can:

- Cater for growth in the Kingseat, Clarks Beach, Glenbrook Beach and Waiuku areas
- Improve the quality of the treated wastewater discharged into the Waiuku Channel
- Ensure flexibility for future opportunities for treated water use.



Project goals...

- 1**

Keep our communities healthy
- 2**

Protect our environment, particularly the Manukau Harbour
- 3**

Provide a solution that will be affordable now and in the future
- 4**

Recognise and provide for the cultural and spiritual objectives of local Mana Whenua
- 5**

Retain flexibility for future, sustainable, longer-term solutions