

Information Sheet 1 (simplified): Background – Southern Pipeline case study

What is the Southern Pipeline?

A large wastewater pipe one metre in width that will run between Maleme Street and the Te Maunga Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Southern Pipeline is an important wastewater project for Tauranga City Council and will be a major long-term investment for the city. The project aim is to construct a pipeline that:

1. is safe, economical and strong;
2. protects the environment and public health;
3. minimises environmental and community disruption during construction; and
4. is generally supported by the community.

Population growth and wastewater treatment

The need for the Southern Pipeline was identified in the SmartGrowth Strategy. As Tauranga population grows, as seen in the more populated southern areas, the wastewater system needs to be increased. Healthy communities rely on networks of wastewater pipes and pump stations to collect and transport the wastewater to specialist treatment places.

In Tauranga the wastewater network has been developed over many decades. The two existing Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) are at Chapel Street and Te Maunga. The Chapel Street plant is on a small site with no space to grow. The Te Maunga Wastewater Treatment Plant has the ability to treat the flows from a bigger population, and has lots of space for more buildings. The treated wastewater from both treatment plants goes through the Te Maunga wetlands before the final exit via an off shore ocean outfall. This ocean outfall is planned to be used for the long term.

Future growth, wastewater and the Southern Pipeline

The Te Maunga Wastewater Treatment Plant has been selected to help meet future growth. In order to transfer wastewater to the Te Maunga Wastewater Treatment Plant, a new pipe is needed to collect the flows from the southern parts of Tauranga and to transfer the collected wastewater to Te Maunga. The proposed Southern Pipeline will do this.

The Southern Pipeline is a large wastewater pipeline that is needed to transfer sewage from Tauriko/Greerton to the Te Maunga Wastewater Treatment Plant. It will ease pressure from the rest of the city's wastewater system, especially the existing Judea to Chapel St pipe. The total project cost is now estimated at \$106.1million (2009 dollars).



Ocean outfall location
(Image – Tauranga City Council)

Possible routes

The pipeline will need to get from Memorial Park to the Strand (near the rail bridge). There are two options 1. The coastal option, and 2. The Devonport Road option. The Council is thinking about a coastal walkway along the coastal pipeline route. The Council is looking at two options for crossing the harbour – a submarine pipeline and upgrade of the existing rail bridge.

Independent review

Before committing to the \$106 million project, Council asked for an independent review. The review supported the fact that the pipeline is needed in the short term to avoid overflows of wastewater caused by growth in the city and in the long term to divert wastewater away from Chapel Street Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Key features of the Southern Pipeline proposed works

Key features include:

- Building of a new 14.5 km trunk main sewer pipeline from Maleme Street, Greerton to the Te Maunga WWTP;
- Building of a new Maleme Street pump station and re-building of the Memorial Park pump station;
- Making a bank along part of the foreshore of the Te Papa Peninsula, for the pipeline (from Fifth Avenue) and a walkway/cycleway;
- Putting the pipeline onto a new walkway/cycleway, which will be put on the Railway Bridge and the widening of the railway causeway at the eastern (Matapihi) end. The widened causeway will give access to the railway bridge;
- Reclamation on the Matapihi foreshore;
- Building of new structures including siphon structures, valve chambers, receiving chambers and air control structures.

If the Memorial – Strand Walkway project goes ahead, but the Railway Bridge Upgrade project does not, the Southern Pipeline will be placed within the reclaimed foreshore bank as far as First Avenue – then it will cross the harbour to Matapihi via a submarine pipeline sitting on the seabed.

References and additional reading

See: Tauranga City Council at www.tauranga.govt.nz or click here: <http://www.tauranga.govt.nz/council-projects/southern-pipeline.aspx>



Question / Pātai:

1. Make a list of affected parties – who will be affected by the proposal?
2. What are the potential effects that will arise from the proposal? (Consider environmental, social, economic and cultural factors).