

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Reference: Application-2025-0545

04 August 2025

Watercare Services Limited  
Private Bag 94010  
Manukau City  
Auckland 2241

Sent via Email: [John.Stokes@water.co.nz](mailto:John.Stokes@water.co.nz)

Dear John,

**Motions Catchment Improvements Project – North Western Motorway SH16 Auckland – Watercare Services Ltd**

Thank you for your request for written approval from NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) under section 95E of the (RMA).

**Proposal**

The proposal is for Watercare Services Ltd to install a new wastewater connection from Western Springs to Canada Street that runs under and near NZTA assets (State Highway 16).

The Motions Catchment Improvements Project (MCIP) is part of broader Western Isthmus Water Quality Improvement Programme works being carried out by Watercare Services Limited. The project is aimed to reduce wastewater overflows and improve stream and beach quality across Auckland's city central western isthmus.

The proposed general alignment for pipeline and associated shaft locations are shown in Attachment 1.

**Assessment**

In assessing the proposed activity, NZTA notes the following:

- Watercare is seeking affected party approval under s95E of the RMA in relation to their resource consent application for the MCIP.
- A separate section 176 approval under the RMA (Designations 6718 as 6736 as shown in the Auckland Unitary Plan) is to be applied for by Watercare at the time of detailed design.
- The MCIP interacts with some of the same locations as the NZTA North West Busway Project. Discussions have taken place with Watercare Services Ltd and the Project team to minimise disruption to both projects in future. While the NZTA North West Busway project has not yet been consented, it is anticipated that Watercare Service Ltd will continue to liaise with the project team in relation to shaft locations and alignment, specifically in the area west of Bond Street.
- Watercare has also actively engaged with NZTA's geotechnical specialist, as the proposal involves tunnelling up to 20m below surface level. It has been agreed that further groundwater/geotechnical information will be provided to ensure that there is no conflict or risk to NZTA structures and existing assets.
- As the works involve tunnelling under the state highway and no access for construction is proposed from the motorway corridor, no effects on the operation of the state highway are anticipated. It is assumed all construction traffic access will be from local roads, and if any access were to take place in the state highway a separate Corridor Access Request would be required.
- The MCIP is expected to cross State Highway 16 at four locations:
  - Eastbound St Lukes onramp to Myrtle Road,
  - South end Commercial Road/ Cooper Street to north end of Central Road,
  - West of Newton Road overbridge to Suffolk Reserve and,
  - Suffolk Reserve to Canada Street (below Central Motorway Junction).
- NZTA anticipate section 127 under the RMA may be required post lodgement due to change in shaft locations.

**Determination**

Consultation with NZTA has been undertaken, and in principle NZTA are supportive of the proposed Motions Catchment Improvements Project subject to detailed design of the exact locations of shafts and alignment in the area west of Bond Street. This written approval does not constitute section 176 approval under the RMA nor approval for installation. On the basis of the above assessment of the proposed activity, the New Zealand Transport Agency provides written approval under section 95E of the RMA.

**Expiry of this approval**

Unless resource consent has been obtained this approval will expire two years from the date of this approval letter. This approval will lapse at that date unless prior agreement has been obtained from The New Zealand Transport Agency.

If you have any queries regarding the above or wish to discuss matters further, please feel free to contact the Environmental Planning team at [environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely,



Vonnie Veen-Grimes  
Planner

Poutiaki Taiao / Environmental Planning, System Design, on behalf of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi.

Enclosed:

- Attachment 1: General alignment and shaft locations of Motions Wastewater Catchment Improvements

**ATTACHMENT 1: General alignment and shaft locations of Motions Wastewater Catchment Improvements**

Western Isthmus Water Quality Improvement Programme  
**Motions Wastewater Catchment Improvements**

