Local Water Done Well Fact Sheet

Manawatū District **Water Snapshot**

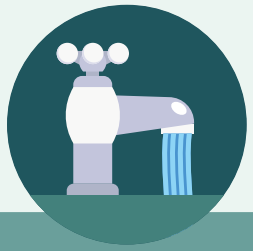
The Manawatū District is proudly agricultural, spanning 250,000 hectares from the Pacific Coast in the west to the Ruahine Ranges in the east. With a population of 34,800 in 2024 – an increase of 1.5% from the previous year – the district is a dynamic mix of urban, village, and rural communities, with over half of its residents living in Feilding.

Over the next 30 years, the population is projected to grow by 14,000.

In 2019, the Manawatū District Council set out to transform the management and delivery of its three waters services. Through bold, proactive workplans, the Council aimed to enhance how water supply, wastewater, and stormwater services are managed for the community.

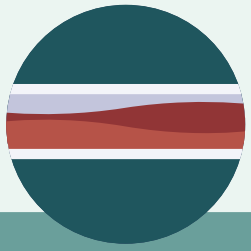
You can learn more about our current water management on the following pages, or explore our Local Water Done Well for Manawatū District consultation document by visiting:

mdc.govt.nz/localwaterdonewell



Drinking Water

- 10 million litres supplied daily
- $206M value of assets
- 6 supply zones and 7 treatment plants
- 478km of pipes
- 9201 Connections
- 977 hydrants



Wastewater

- $208M value of assets
- 7 treatment plants
- 262km of pipes
- 108 manholes
- 18 main pump stations and 324 domestic pump stations
- 8983 connections

Stormwater

- $208M value of assets
- 7 treatment plants
- 262km of pipes
- 108 manholes
- 18 main pump stations and 324 domestic pump stations
- 8983 connections

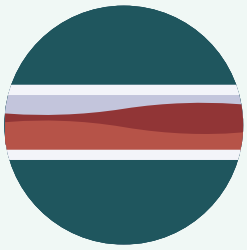
Understanding MDC's current water flow: three key streams

Drinking Water

Manawatū District utilises multiple sources to fill the District's drinking water requirements and extensive planning and investment ensures that the components are fit for years to come. This plan is titled the Feilding Water Resilience Project in addition to our smaller community water schemes like Sanson and NZDF Base Ohakea.

The project has a keen eye on our environmental impact with particular emphasis on protecting the Oroua River. To help minimise the amount of water extracted from the river, a third bore has been constructed at Roots Street in Feilding to supplement the Campbell Road and Newbury Line bores. In addition, a second reservoir at MacDonald Heights was installed, while the existing reservoir was earthquake strengthened.

The Feilding Water Resilience Project improves the endurance of our drinking water supply, while helping to cater for current and future demands based on local growth. Most importantly, the project caters to our local community needs while ensuring the health of the Oroua River.



Wastewater

The Wastewater Centralisation Programme has seen the greatest impact on the overall environmental and day to day management of the three waters. Having already upgraded the Manawatū Wastewater Treatment Plant, Council committed to a significant programme of works to centralise the treatment of village wastewater into Feilding.

For Sanson and NZDF Base Ohakea, this has included a substantial network of pipes, pumpstations and underground storage resulting in the first flush and full operation in 2024. Rongotea is currently underway, with Halcombe up next.

Financially, centralisation meant that consenting, operations and maintenance costs are only required at one treatment plant instead of multiple, smaller, older facilities across the district.

Environmentally, centralising the process enables all wastewater to be consistently managed, treated and discharged to an equally high standard. The Feilding Wastewater Treatment Plant includes dual discharge with irrigation to land over the summer months (weather permitting) and via a native plant wetlands to the Oroua River over the winter months.

Stanway-Halcombe Water Reservoir

Stormwater upgrades Rongotea

Sanson Wastewater Station

Stormwater

As part of the 2018-2028 Long-term Plan, Manawatū District Council adopted a village focused stormwater improvement programme which included Tangimoana, Himatangi Beach, Rongotea, Sanson, Halcombe and Cheltenham. It was a significant financial investment to assure that both proactive and reactive stormwater management was implemented. The plans took a local focus, responding to the needs of each community and ensuring that the improvements were fit for the overall village.

Population and industrial growth has the most significant impact on stormwater. In Council's 2024-34 Long-term Plan, a $20+ million Feilding focused stormwater upgrade programme was approved as well as additional investment into the village stormwater improvement programme. This is an ambitious but exciting project to ensure the management of stormwater is reflective of the growing population and developing areas within the District.

MDC Wastewater Treatment Plant