

Temuka water event (asbestos)

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At 4.45 pm on the 5th of December 2017 advice was received that the Temuka Water Supply contained 'enormous amounts of asbestos fibres'. This advice was received following the analysis of water samples that were causing washing machines and shower heads to block with 'fluffy like' material.

Medical advice was urgently obtained which confirmed that when ingested asbestos fibres were not a health hazard but when inhaled they could cause health issues such as lung cancer.

A comprehensive media plan was put in place while a strategy was urgently developed to address the immediate problem and determine a long term solution.

A filtration plant was assembled and commissioned by the 20th of December 2017 and on the 12th of January 2018 an extraordinary meeting of the Timaru District Council approved the replacement of 9 km of 300 mm Asbestos Cement trunk water main with a budget of \$3.5 million.

By the 26th of March 2018 the 450mmm HDPE replacement pipeline had been installed and made operational.

The pipeline components and the physical work were generally procured via competitive processes and at the peak of construction 15 excavators were involved across six work fronts.

The presentation describes the timelines, communication techniques, procurement methods, construction details and the outcome of this urgent work.