

WATER

We tend to take water for granted as an unlimited resource. Yet, if Aucklanders continue with this attitude we will need to build a number of new facilities that will significantly increase the cost of both our water supply and wastewater treatment: a pipeline from the Waikato, a new treatment plant at Mangere, a new trunk main to carry sewage from Waitakere City to Mangere.

Yet there is enormous potential to reduce our wastage of water with no penalty to our comfort or our way of life.

Water moves around in the natural water cycle as part of an interconnected system, from rain to groundwater, streams and rivers, the sea, clouds, and back to rain again. As humans we divert some of it for our own use before passing it back into the cycle, often polluted and dirty. If we saw ourselves as part of this bigger picture, and adopted something of the Maori approach to the stewardship of our water, we could save ourselves money, and have cleaner, less polluted harbours.