

Water works running from Tupapa to Avana

THE WATSAN Division of Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) will be undertaking work to replace underground galvanised service lines along the Ara Tapu mainroad, from the water supply sub main to the homes across the road in the Tupapa area before moving through to Avana in the coming weeks.

Simultaneously, the Ministry is offering New Water Connections to vacant sections on the beach side of the main road at a discounted rate of \$102.

The Division encourages all those landowners of vacant sections to take advantage of the discount and get in touch by calling 20321.

To continue efforts to institutionalise robust coordination, Bluesky, Te Mato Vai Project Management Unit and Te Aponga Uira are involved in the planning for this work.

It is expected that the public will question why the galvanised line replacement wasn't done during the Te Mato Vai

commissioning work done recently.

"Unfortunately, we could not do the line replacement while Te Mato Vai commissioning was underway as it is a completely different set of work and we didn't want to delay their programming as they are under very strict time frames" said Water Division Manager Wilson Rani.

The improvement in pressure after the commissioning has been noticed by the Water

Division with more frequent leaks being experienced in the project area.

"The galvanised pipes are over 40 years old so we are experiencing exactly what happened during Project City water upgrade in Avarua during 2012 to 2013.

The rest of the islands service lines have been replaced some years ago and this is the last area to upgrade", adds Rani.

"Part of the work will be contracted out to the private sector

who will provide trenching and backfilling services as well as traffic control" said ICI Secretary Ngametua Pokino.

"As part of our Strategic Plan we are endeavouring to set and comply with standards and codes of practice across our civil works".

The Ministry has a newly developed Code of Practice for working in the road corridor that covers procedures for locating underground utility structures, site management, emer-

gency management, trenching procedures and surface layer reinstatement.

Communications to the public will be provided across newspaper, social media and television.

Pokino urges all beachside vacant land owners between Pue and Avana to get in touch with the Ministry to book in the new water connections and take advantage of the discounted connection fee.

■ Release

Water experts build capacity

NOT ONLY is the Mei Te Vai Ki Te Vai project focused on improving the water quality of the lagoons in Rarotonga and Aitutaki – but on also building local capacity to contribute to the sustainability of the project.

Last week, water and waste management specialist Astrid Modrow, pictured holding water testing equipment, shared her skills and knowledge with local staff from Infrastructure Cook Islands, Ministry of Marine Resources and the GHD project management team.

A one-day training workshop was held last Friday to upskill local staff on how to deploy, gather data and maintain the portable water quality station currently set in Muri lagoon.

Modrow, who is a project manager with New Zealand based DCM Process Control, says data collected from the portable water quality station will add to the overall picture that experts are building of the

Muri environment as part of the Mei Te Vai Ki Te Vai project.

The water quality station can be used in both the lagoon and streams in the Muri area. It collects data on nutrient levels, changes in the water quality after rain and other vital data to add to the overall investigations into how agricultural activities, on-site septic systems and other activities contribute to Muri lagoon's water quality.

In January 2017, the Cook Islands government launched the Mei Te Vai Ki Te Vai project to improve the water quality of the lagoons in Rarotonga and Aitutaki.

The project involves confirming the source of the issues, identifying what can be done in the short term, providing a road map for investment, developing a concept design for a long-term wastewater management solution, establishment of a Crown-owned water and wastewater authority and engaging with



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the community throughout and beyond.

To stay informed about the Mei Te Vai Ki Te Vai project –

visit the project's website www.vaikitevai.com, follow the project's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/vaikitevai/>

or contact the project management unit on 28851 with any queries or to subscribe to the monthly newsletter which is

available in both English and Maori.

■ Matariki Wilson