

# Watercare investor information

[Watercare introduction video](#)

January & February 2026



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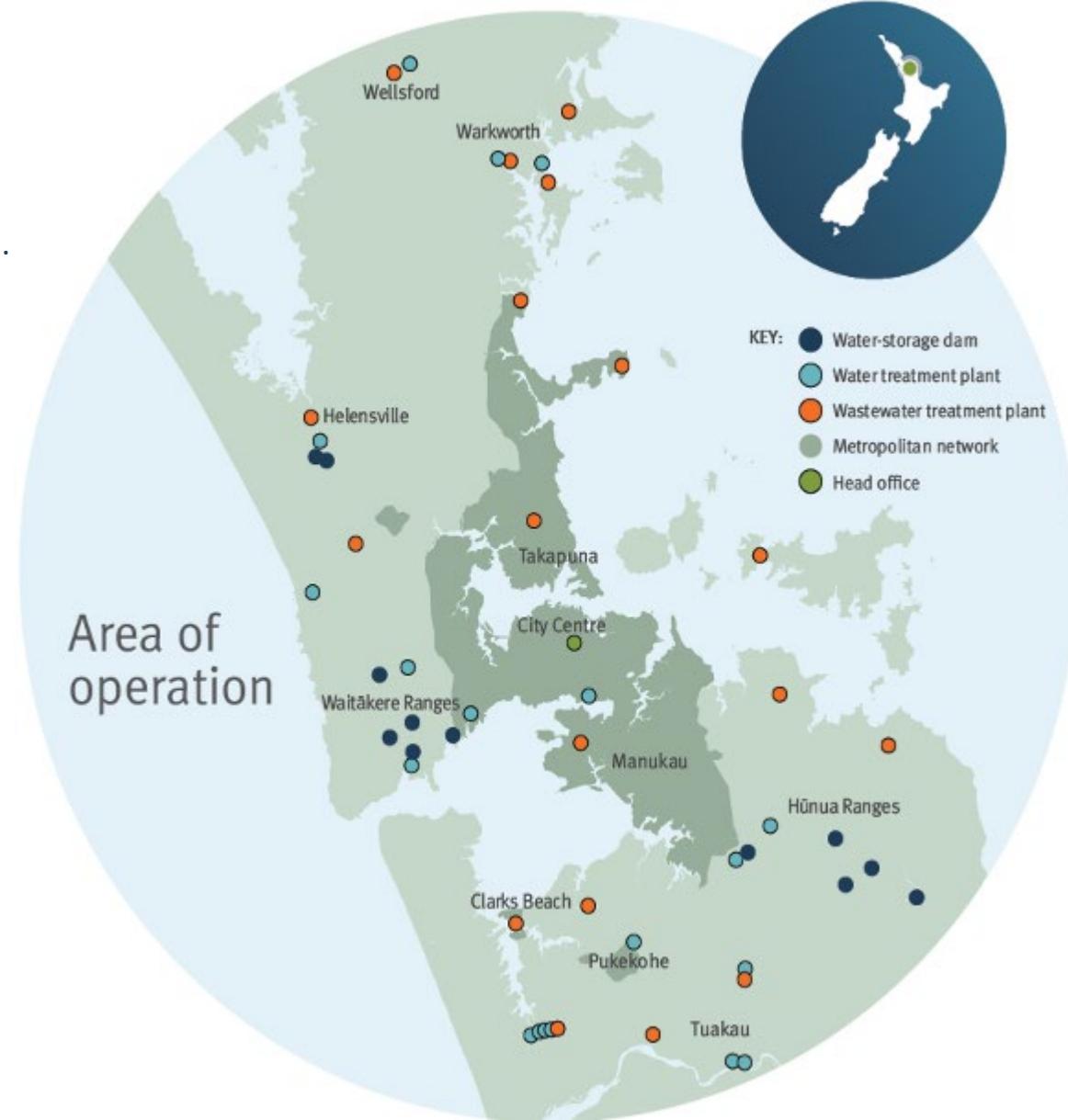
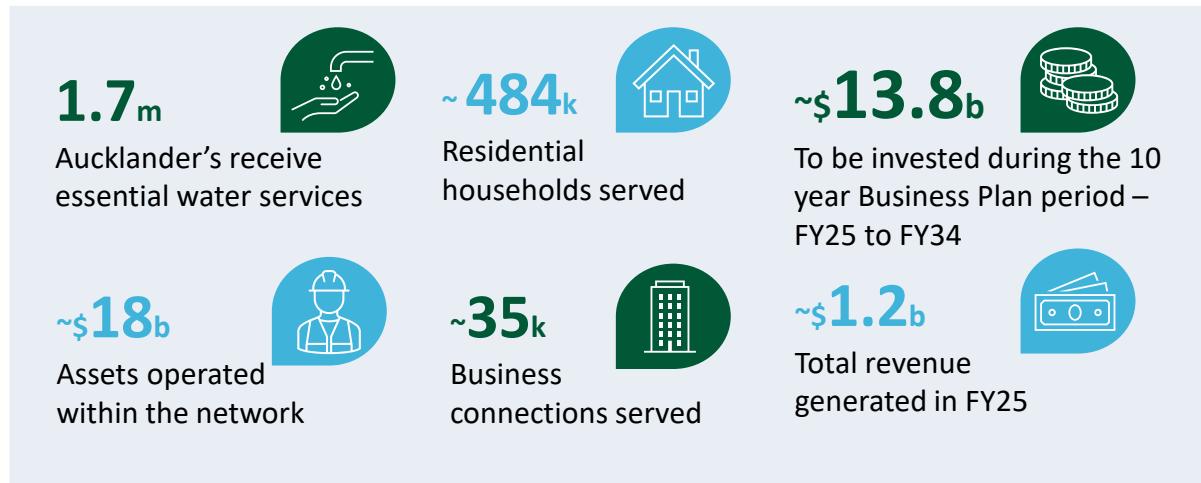


# Section one

## Watercare overview

# About Watercare

- Responsible for providing water and wastewater services to the Auckland region.
- Owned by Auckland Council:
  - Council Controlled Organisation (CCO)
  - Council's credit ratings are AA (Standard & Poor's) and Aa2 (Moody's), both on a stable outlook
- Auckland Council is legislatively prohibited from giving financial support or capital, or lending money or providing credit to Watercare. Watercare has therefore become a standalone borrower with its own credit rating.
- Watercare's credit rating from Moody's is Aa3, on a stable outlook.



# Water reform

In late 2023 the Government established the Local Water Done Well framework with the intention of restoring control of water assets to local communities. It aims to:



Restore council ownership and control of water infrastructure assets



Ensure water services are financially sustainable



Set water quality and infrastructure investment rules

All councils in New Zealand submitted a Water Services Delivery Plan in September 2025, setting out their chosen delivery model. A bespoke solution was implemented for Auckland Council and Watercare under the Local Water Done Well reforms via the Watercare Charter, which commenced on 1 April 2025 and provides for interim regulation until 30 June 2028.

Auckland Council will issue a Statement of Expectations for Watercare in 2026. Watercare is required to have a Water Services Strategy setting out how it will provide reliable and resilient water services which meet consumer expectations and regulatory requirements in place by 1 July 2027 which will inform the first price quality path set under permanent regulation.



# Implications of water reform for Watercare

## 01 Legislative obligations

On 1 July 2025, the obligation to provide water and wastewater services was transferred from Auckland Council to Watercare. Stormwater services remain with Auckland Council.

## 02 Economic regulation

Watercare is now subject to interim economic regulation via the Watercare Charter. The Commerce Commission has been appointed Watercare's Crown monitor.

## 03 Financial separation

Auckland Council is legislatively prohibited from giving financial support or capital, or lending money or providing credit to Watercare. Watercare has therefore become a standalone borrower with its own credit rating. Watercare is also prohibited from making any distributions to its shareholder.

## 04 Transitional support

The outstanding debt balance to Auckland Council, which was owing as at 30 June 2025, is required to be repaid within 5 years (\$4.032 billion).

## 05 Role of central government

Watercare does not benefit from central government guarantee but is subject to central government step-in powers and eligible to receive support under the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Act 2002.

## 06 Role of Auckland Council

Watercare remains a council-controlled organisation, receiving strategic input from its sole shareholder. Watercare contracts treasury services from Auckland Council; and procures most insurance together with the Auckland Council Group, including participation in the self-insurance fund.



## Section two

### Regulatory environment

# Watercare Charter

In effect from 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2028.

The purpose of the Charter includes promotion of the following purposes:

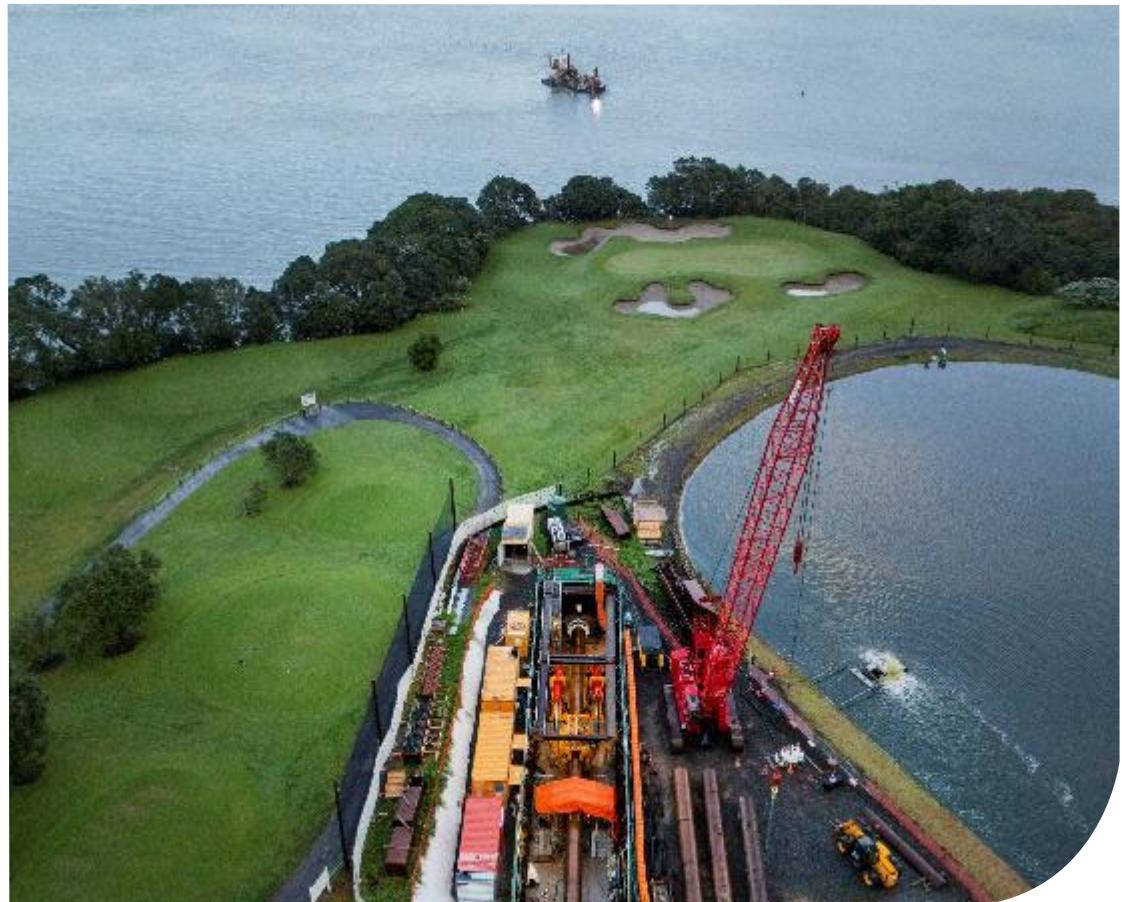
- Ensuring Watercare manages its operations efficiently with a view to keeping the overall costs of delivering water services at the minimum levels consistent with the effective conduct of its undertakings and the maintenance of the long-term integrity of its assets.
- Ensuring Watercare has incentives to invest in water services, improve efficiency and provide water services at a quality that reflects consumer demands; and shares with consumers the benefits of efficiency gains in supplying water services, including through lower prices, and is limited in its ability to extract excessive profits.

The Charter includes:

- Minimum service quality standards in relation to water supply and wastewater networks.
- Financial performance objectives, including a maximum allowable revenue, minimum infrastructure growth charge (IGC) increases, and maintenance of an investment grade credit rating:

	FY26	FY27	FY28
Revenue cap	\$845.1m	\$919.2m	\$985.0m
Minimum IGC increase	15.5%	20%	11.2%

The Charter does not include a formulaic penalty or incentive regime for over or under performance, nor a customer compensation scheme.

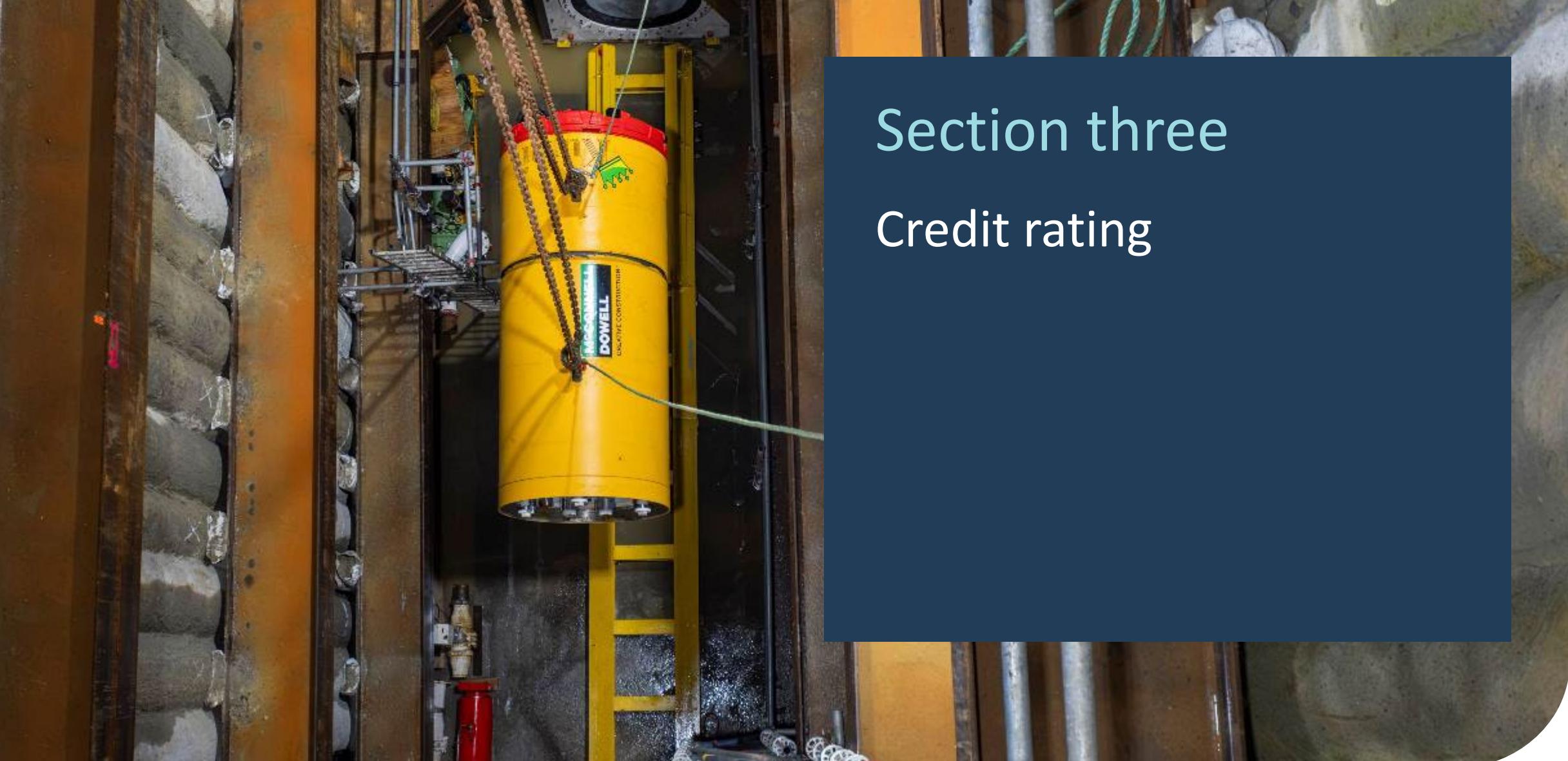


# Role of the Commerce Commission

Interim economic regulation regime:  
**A Watercare specific charter**

Longer-term economic regulation regime:  
**Applicable to all water organisations**

Interim economic regulation	30 June 2028	Long-term economic regulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Central Government appointed the Commerce Commission as the Crown monitor.</li><li>Watercare is required to report to Crown monitor either quarterly or annually on compliance with:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SOI/Business Plan measures</li><li>Minimum service quality standards</li><li>Efficiency improvements</li><li>Price-quality path earnings</li><li>Infrastructure Delivery and Asset Management Improvement</li><li>Opex and Capex</li></ul></li><li>The Crown monitor is required to produce an annual report on Watercare's performance against the Charter.</li><li>The Crown monitor can enforce non-compliance in High Court.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Local Government (Water Services) Act and Local Government (Water Services) (Repeals and Amendments) Act, gives councils the framework, delivery models, and tools they need to address the specific challenges they are facing, in a way that works for the ratepayers they serve.</li><li>The Commerce Commission will have oversight of the economic regulation regime and ensure ratepayers are getting the quality infrastructure they deserve, at a price that is fair and reasonable.</li><li>The Commerce Commission released an initial "Price-Quality Path for Watercare" Approach Paper on 26 November 2025. This referenced the Commission's ongoing aims to promote regulatory predictability and that they should apply the 'building blocks' approach used for other regulated sectors.</li><li>The Commission plans to release a Position Paper on the foundational regulatory accounting basis and a Discussion Paper on other key price quality path choices between June and September 2026, and intends to reach a draft decision on Watercare's price-quality path in the second half of 2027.</li></ul>



## Section three

### Credit rating

# Moody's Aa3 credit highlights

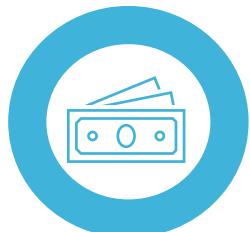
## Credit rating assessment

**Aa3**

Assigned rating  
(senior unsecured)

**P-1**

Assigned rating  
(short-term)



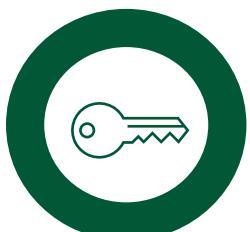
### Cashflows

Stable cashflows underpinned by Watercare being a monopoly provider of an essential service with a large, diverse, customer base.



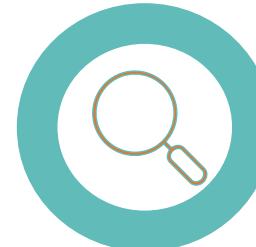
### Revenue collection and enforcement

Low historical bad debts, robust enforcement processes, and the ability to restrict water supply mitigates the risk of non-payment.



### Security arrangements

Debt is secured against water charges, while an appointed receiver has the legislative ability to impose a special charge to service debt commitments.



### Central government oversight/support

The central government plays an important role via the regulatory regime, step-in rights, and the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act.



### Governance

Watercare has an established governance framework incorporating comprehensive risk management protocols and policies.



### Beneficial and robust regulatory regime

The Charter ensures that Watercare deliver high quality water services, maintain long-term integrity of its assets, manage operations efficiently and share efficiency gains with customers.

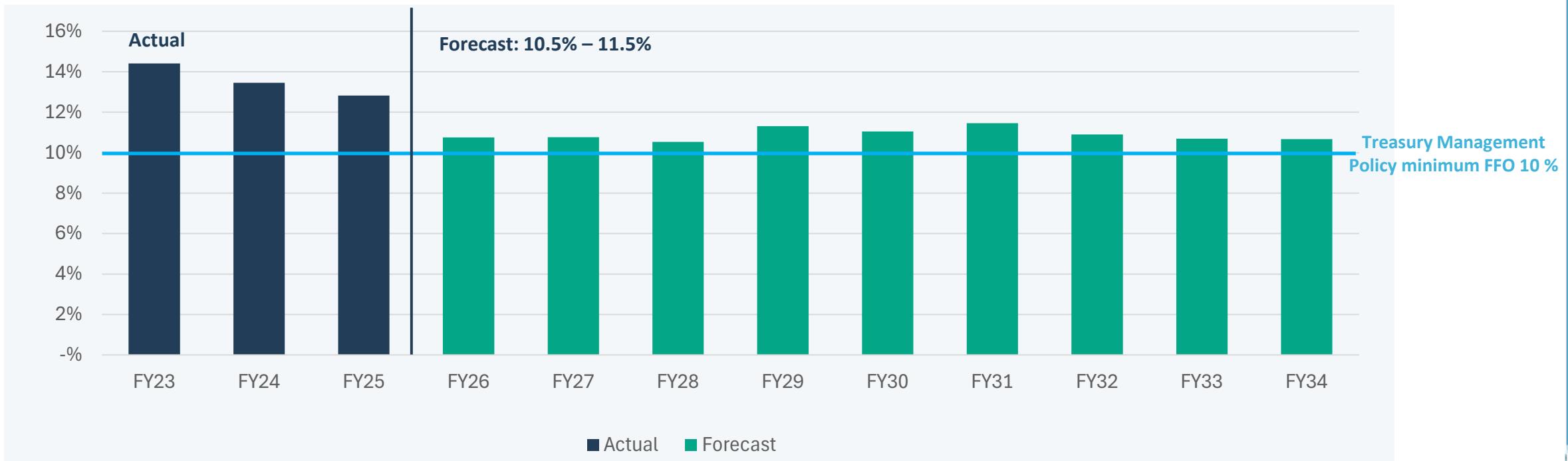


### Scale and essential service

Watercare is a natural monopoly providing essential water and wastewater services to Auckland – representing over 1/3 of New Zealand's population.

# Financial metrics underpinning credit rating

## FFO to debt ratio



# Support mechanisms

A balanced multi-regulatory oversight regime and Government emergency intervention powers to ensure service continuity.

## Auckland Council



The Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2024 s56A prohibits Auckland Council from providing financial support to Watercare.

Auckland Council:

- has no right, title or interest in the assets, security, debts or liabilities of Watercare.
- cannot receive any equity return, either directly or indirectly, from Watercare.
- must not lend money or provide credit to Watercare.
- must not give any guarantee, indemnity or security in relation to the performance of any obligations of Watercare.

## The New Zealand Government



The Government will not provide a guarantee, however, may step in under certain circumstances:

- The Local Government Act 2002 provides the Minister of Local Government with the power to intervene in the affairs of a local authority if required<sup>1</sup>.
- In the event of financial distress, secured creditors (via the appointed receiver) can set and collect a special charge to cover debt service.
- The Government can appoint a statutory manager to create a structuring proposal for consumers and the Government, and control assets until this is complete.

## CDEM ACT 2002



The Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Act 2002 sets out the rules for managing emergencies.

In an emergency, the Government will cover up to 60% of the costs above a threshold, which Watercare spends on essential infrastructure recovery repairs.

1. Including a Crown Review Team, Crown Observer, Crown Manager, Crown facilitators, or Crown commissioners.

# The receiver's special charge

- The receiver's special charge is modelled on the equivalent special rate power available to receivers appointed to local councils.
- It is a material credit enhancement ensuring that Watercare can continue to meet its debt obligations in the unlikely event of financial distress.

				
Basis of the special charge	Nature of the special charge	Sizing	Recourse	Non-payment
The receiver has the authority to set and collect a special charge each financial year to recover sufficient funds to meet debt commitments and costs associated with collecting the charge.	The special charge is legislative in nature and set and collected by the receiver, as opposed to contractual, as is the case for charges collected by Watercare.	The special charge is not limited or restricted by the Maximum Allowable Revenue in the Charter.  The receiver operates outside of this regime and there is no legislative cap on the amount of the special charge.	A receiver can recover unpaid special charges as a debt due via standard debt collection processes including Court procedures.	The special charge is set each financial year and the receiver can set the charge at a level that is sufficient to meet debt commitments and costs. Any non-payment in a prior period can be recovered via resetting the charge the following period.



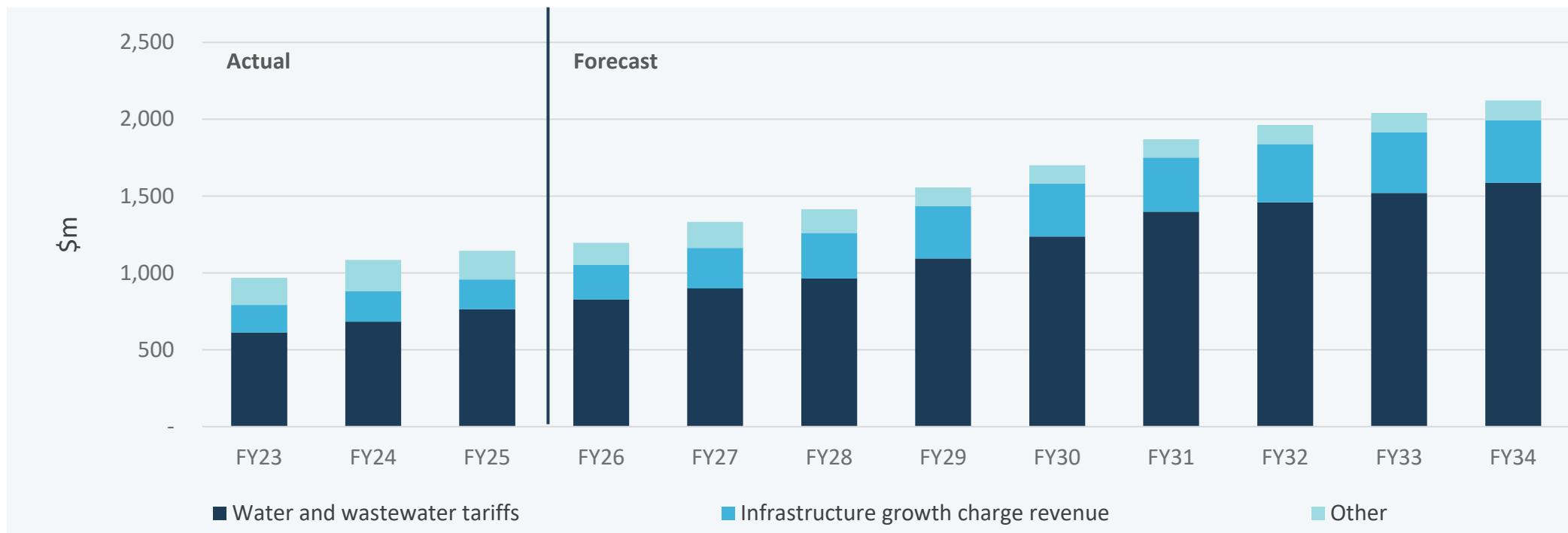
## Section four

## Financials



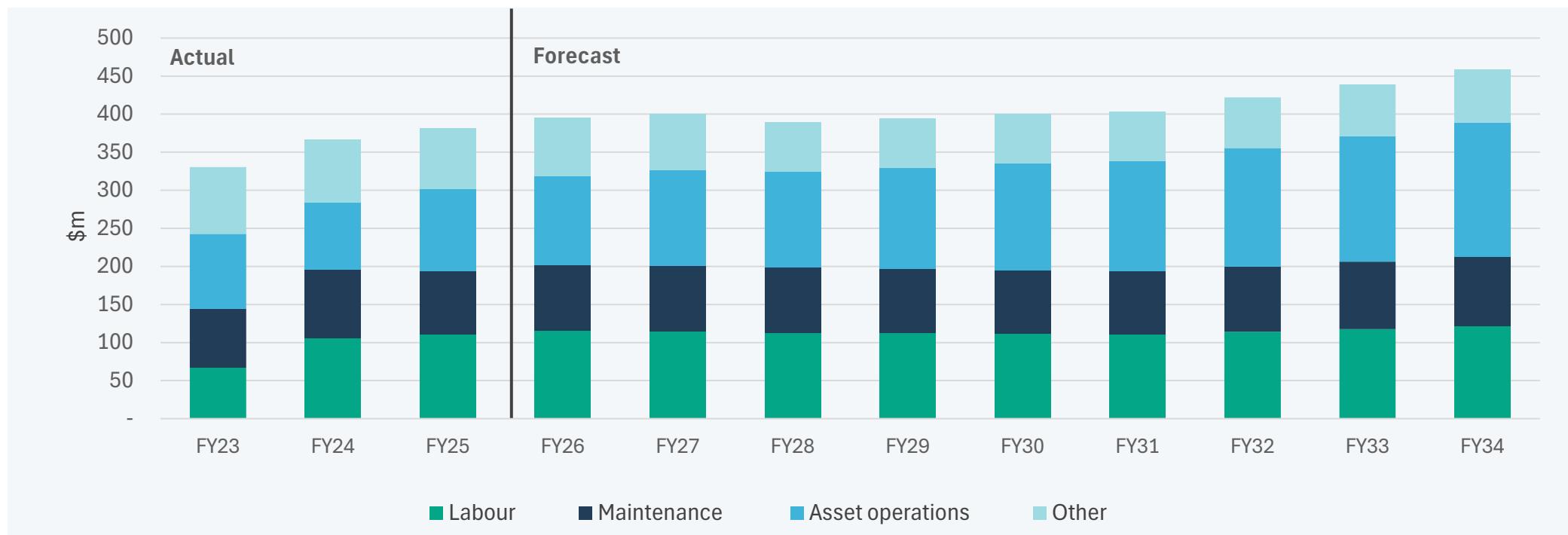
# Key financial metrics

## Operating revenue



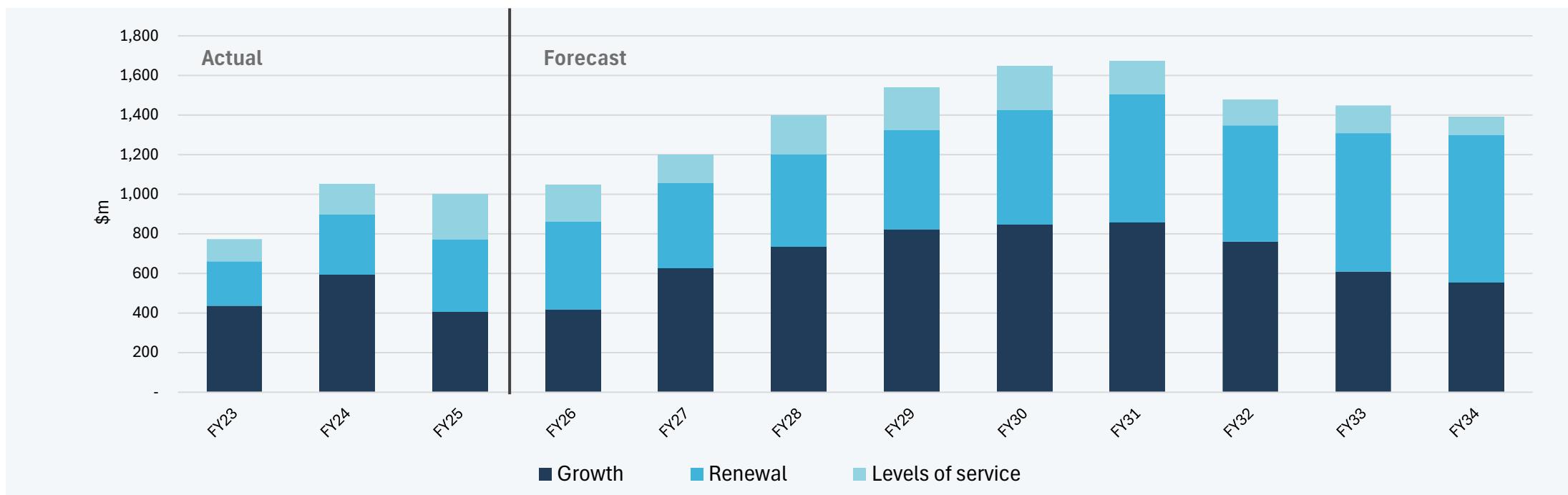
# Key financial metrics

## Operational costs



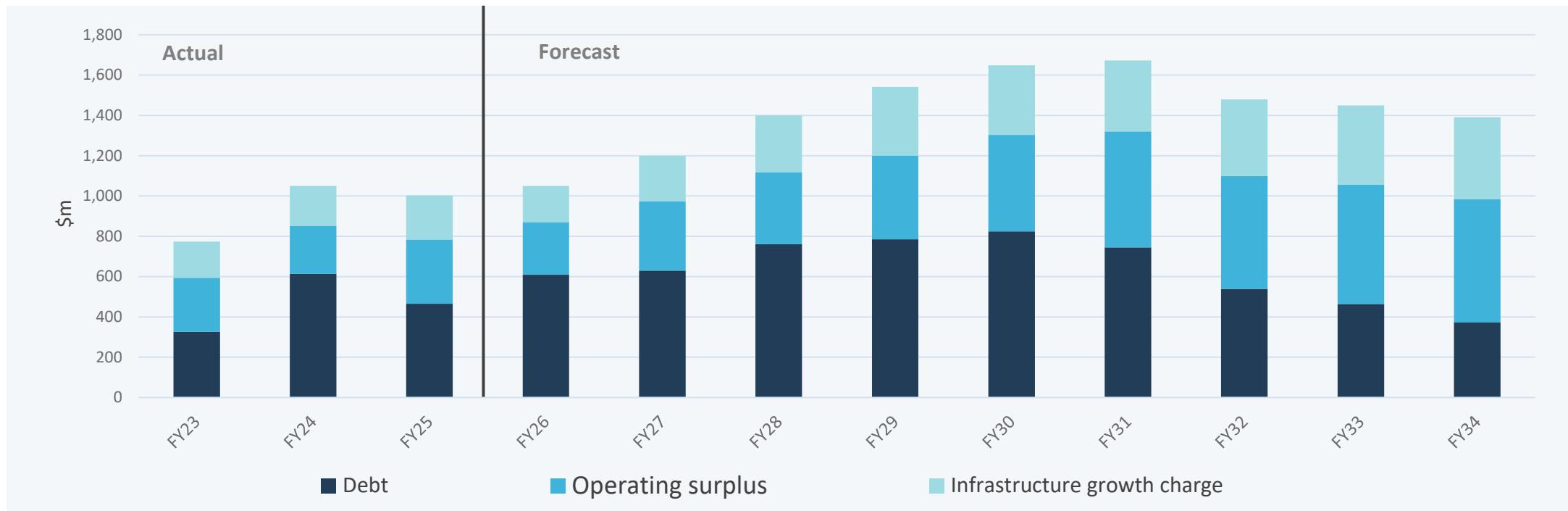
# Asset investment

- Watercare proactively manages its asset base across the network, with renewals based on asset condition and criticality.
- Over FY25 to FY34 Watercare will invest **\$13.8 billion** into its asset base.



# Capital sources

- Capital investment is funded from operating surplus, infrastructure growth charges and debt.





## Section five

### Debt funding

# Watercare funding

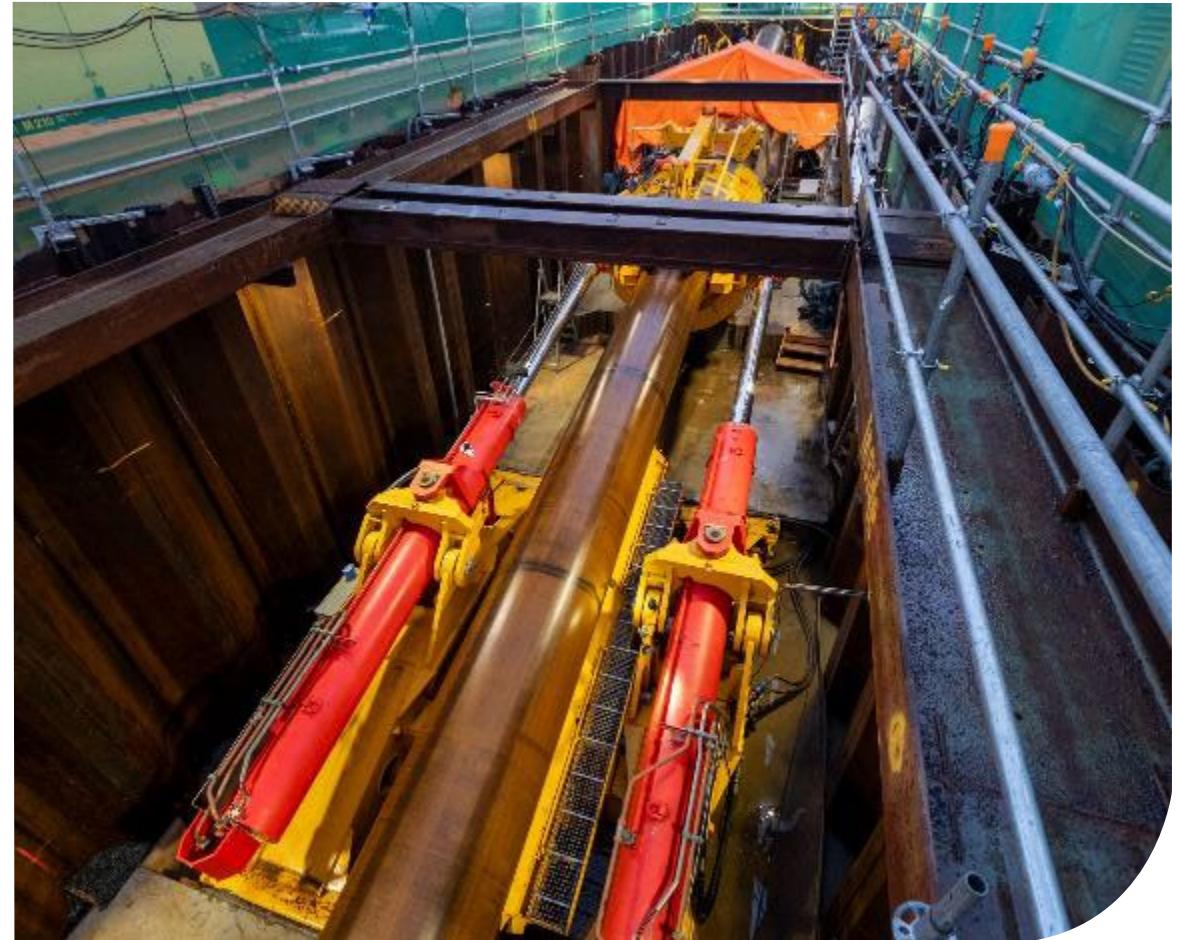
Initially funded through:

- Auckland Council Transition Loan (\$4.032 billion).
- Revolving Credit Facility:
  - \$1.4 billion (30 June 2026 with 1 year extension option)
  - \$1.2 billion (30 June 2028)
- Standby Facility \$0.8 billion (30 June 2026 with 1 year extension option).

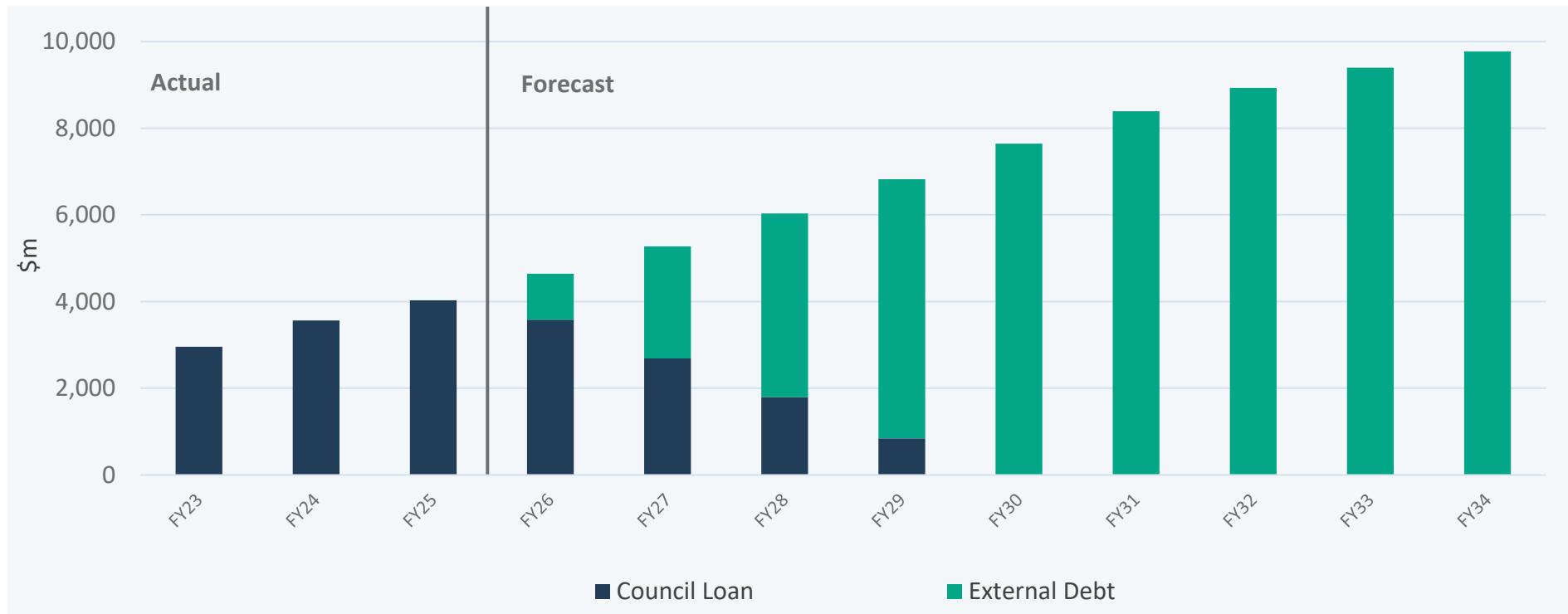
Borrowing Programme established:

- NZD Commercial Paper
- NZD Wholesale Bond
- AUD Medium Term Note
- Euro Medium Term Note

Governance provided through Treasury Management Committee and Watercare Board.



# Forecast debt



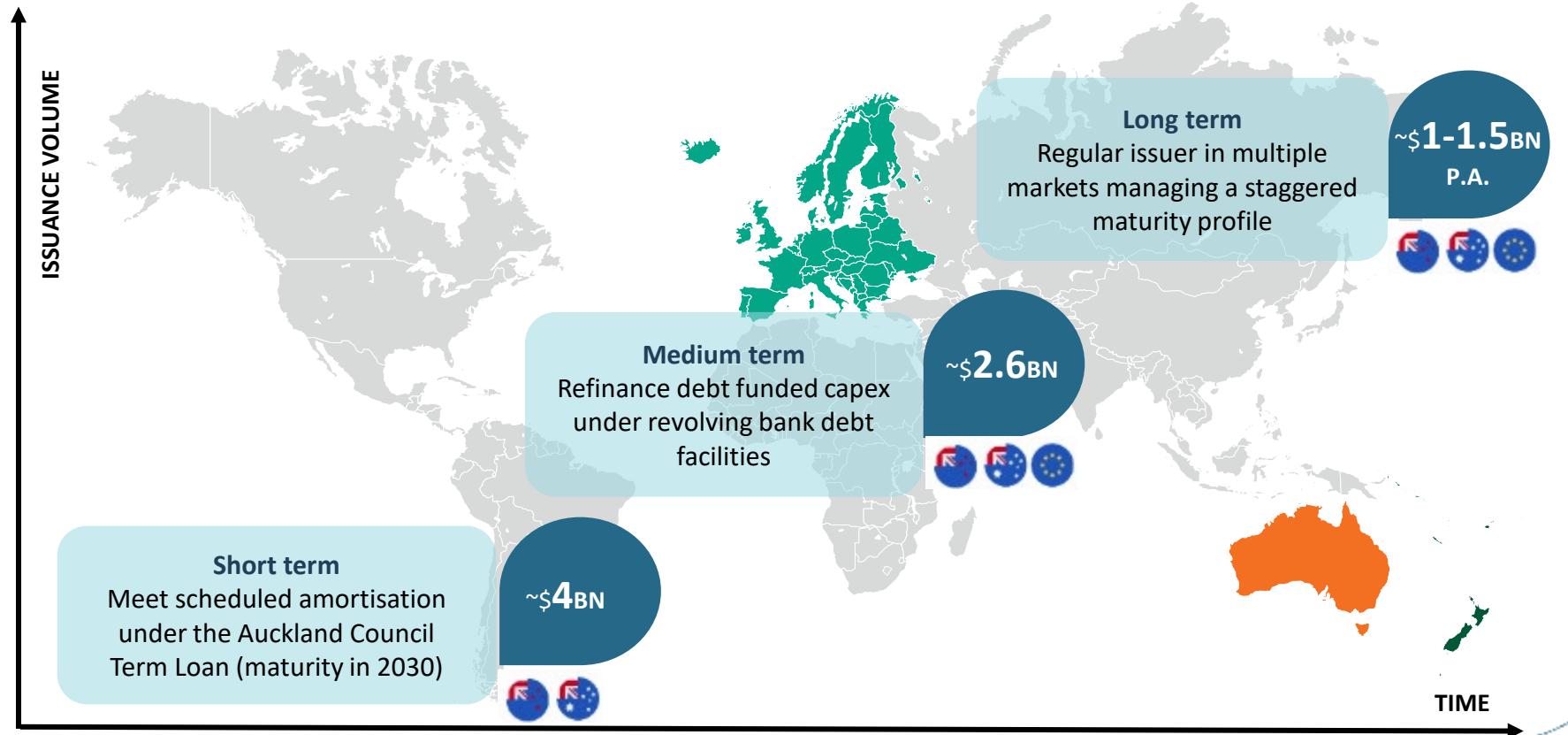
# Watercare funding strategy

Watercare is expected to become a mature issuer in domestic and offshore debt capital markets over the medium term, with total debt forecast to reach \$10 billion by 2034.

Watercare has established bond programmes in multiple markets – domestic (NZD), Australian (AUD) and European (EUR) programmes.

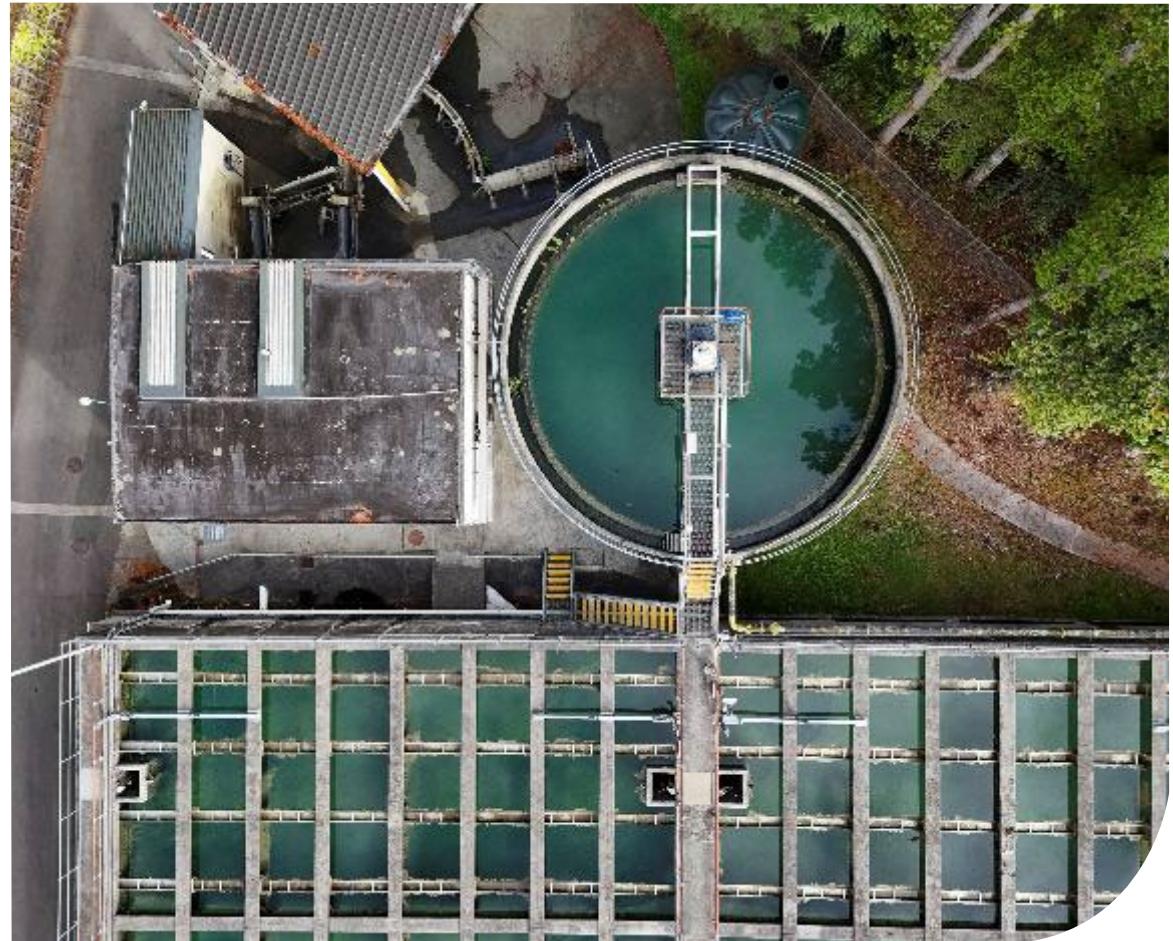


Accelerated repayments on the Auckland Council Transition Loan.



# Multi-creditor debt platform

- Secured creditors that are beneficiaries of the Watercare Security Trust established under the Security Trust and Intercreditor Deed (STID) share in a common security package over specific security.
- Specific Security: Secured creditors have recourse to existing water charges, and any future 'special' charges that may be imposed on customers by a receiver to repay debt in an enforcement scenario.
- Secured liabilities under the STID rank pari passu, including hedging and make-whole liabilities.
- Watercare is prohibited by legislation from providing security over its water assets, therefore no asset security can be provided to any creditor.





# Appendix



# Income statement

## Restatements:

- Borrowing costs: In FY24 the accounting policy for borrowing costs was changed so that interest costs were no longer capitalised for capital expenditure. FY23 has been restated in the income statement and balance sheet for comparatives.
- Operating costs: In FY25, there was a reclassification within operating expenses with a net impact of \$9.1m, total operating expenses remained the same. FY24 has been restated for comparatives.

## Other:

- Revenue: Interest income is included in revenue in statutory accounts.
- Totals may vary slightly due to rounding of figures with multiple decimal places in actual and forecast models.

	\$ millions	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26F
Water revenue	187.1	211.3	226.3	255.5	
Wastewater revenue	425.5	470.2	505.2	572.2	
IGC revenue	179.6	197.8	218.5	179.9	
Vested asset revenue	76.6	85.7	92.4	66.5	
Grant revenue	30.7	30.9	27.4	12.2	
Other revenue	68.7	86.9	86.0	90.2	
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>968.2</b>	<b>1,082.7</b>	<b>1,155.9</b>	<b>1,176.5</b>	
Asset operating costs	(98.3)	(88.4)	(107.5)	(117.1)	
Maintenance costs	(77.5)	(90.5)	(83.2)	(86.6)	
Employee benefit costs	(66.8)	(105.5)	(110.9)	(115.2)	
Rental and lease expenses	(8.3)	(6.6)	(6.0)	(6.0)	
Other general overheads	(79.6)	(76.0)	(73.8)	(70.6)	
<b>Total operating costs</b>	<b>(330.6)</b>	<b>(367.0)</b>	<b>(381.3)</b>	<b>(395.4)</b>	
Demolition costs	-	(0.4)	(1.4)	(5.0)	
Net loss on disposal of PP&E	(25.0)	(9.3)	1.9	(8.0)	
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>612.6</b>	<b>706.0</b>	<b>775.1</b>	<b>768.1</b>	
Depreciation and amortisation	(317.2)	(394.7)	(460.7)	(483.7)	
<b>EBIT</b>	<b>295.4</b>	<b>311.4</b>	<b>314.4</b>	<b>284.4</b>	
Interest expense	(120.7)	(150.3)	(172.3)	(216.4)	
Interest income	0.1	2.3	2.4	1.6	
<b>NPBT</b>	<b>174.8</b>	<b>163.4</b>	<b>144.5</b>	<b>69.5</b>	
Tax	(53.9)	(66.8)	(61.5)	(4.4)	
Discontinued operations	(0.4)	-	-	-	
<b>NPAT</b>	<b>120.5</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>65.1</b>	

# Balance sheet

	\$millions	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26F
Cash and cash equivalents	4.1	48.3	52.9	52.7	
Trade and other receivables	121.3	138.3	154.0	159.3	
Inventories	26.8	27.4	26.8	39.0	
Prepaid expenses	54.1	40.9	39.4	38.2	
Other financial assets	41.1	7.0	-	-	
PP&E	15,371.1	16,046.0	18,034.8	19,229.9	
Intangibles & Goodwill	65.8	86.7	134.0	147.3	
<b>Assets</b>	<b>15,684.3</b>	<b>16,394.6</b>	<b>18,441.8</b>	<b>19,666.3</b>	
Trade and other payables	(35.8)	(34.2)	(71.8)	(37.2)	
Accrued expenses	(210.6)	(159.6)	(157.4)	(149.9)	
Employee benefit expense	(13.4)	(14.4)	(14.8)	(17.6)	
Other provisions	(3.6)	(1.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	
Borrowings	(2,955.6)	(3,567.5)	(4,032.2)	(4,643.1)	
Deferred tax liability	(2,399.8)	(2,465.5)	(2,915.3)	(2,919.8)	
Other non-current liabilities	(22.7)	(38.6)	(55.2)	(55.0)	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>(5,641.4)</b>	<b>(6,280.9)</b>	<b>(7,246.7)</b>	<b>(7,822.5)</b>	
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>10,042.9</b>	<b>10,113.7</b>	<b>11,195.1</b>	<b>11,843.8</b>	
Retained earnings	(4,601.6)	(4,718.8)	(4,802.8)	(4,867.9)	
Revaluation reserves	(5,180.6)	(5,134.2)	(6,131.6)	(6,715.2)	
Issued capital	(260.7)	(260.7)	(260.7)	(260.7)	
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>(10,042.9)</b>	<b>(10,113.7)</b>	<b>(11,195.1)</b>	<b>(11,843.8)</b>	

Note: Totals may vary slightly due to rounding of figures with multiple decimal places in actual and forecast models.

# Cash flow statement

	\$ millions	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26F
<b>Operating activities</b>					
<b>Cash receipts from:</b>					
Customers	870.0	1,002.8	1,123.7	1,104.7	
Dividends	0.1	0.2	0.2	-	
Interest	0.1	2.3	2.5	1.6	
<b>Total cash from operating activities</b>	<b>870.2</b>	<b>1,005.3</b>	<b>1,126.3</b>	<b>1,106.3</b>	
<b>Cash applied to</b>					
Employees and suppliers:	(327.2)	(392.1)	(355.0)	(442.0)	
<b>Net cash inflows from operating activities</b>	<b>543.0</b>	<b>613.2</b>	<b>771.3</b>	<b>664.3</b>	
<b>Investing activities</b>					
<b>Cash applied to:</b>					
Purchase and construction of PPE	(815.8)	(1,032.2)	(1,046.0)	(1,057.5)	
Sale of PPE, disposal of discontinued operations and other	19.4	-	-	-	
<b>Net cash outflows - investing activities</b>	<b>(796.5)</b>	<b>(1,032.2)</b>	<b>(1,046.0)</b>	<b>(1,057.5)</b>	
<b>Financing activities</b>					
<b>Cash receipts from:</b>					
Borrowings	906.1	1,162.6	1,072.5	1,062.1	
<b>Cash applied to:</b>					
Repay loans, interest on loans and other finance costs	(656.1)	(699.3)	(793.2)	(669.0)	
<b>Net cash inflows / (outflows) from financing activities</b>	<b>250.0</b>	<b>463.2</b>	<b>279.3</b>	<b>393.1</b>	
Net change in cashflows	(3.5)	44.2	4.6	(0.1)	
Cash and cash equivalent / (overdraft) at the beginning of the year	7.6	4.1	48.3	52.9	
<b>Cash and cash equivalent / (overdraft) at the end of the year</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>52.7</b>	

Note: Totals may vary slightly due to rounding of figures with multiple decimal places in actual and forecast models.

# Key contacts

Watercare Chief Financial Officer

**Angela Neeson**

Tel: +64 27 489 9057

Email: [Angela.Neeson@water.co.nz](mailto:Angela.Neeson@water.co.nz)

Watercare Chief Executive

**Jamie Sinclair**

Tel: +64 21 475 735

Email: [Jamie.Sinclair@water.co.nz](mailto:Jamie.Sinclair@water.co.nz)

Auckland Council Group Treasurer

**John Bishop**

Tel: +64 9 977 6598

Email: [john.bishop@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:john.bishop@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Auckland Council Head of Group Treasury

**Andrew John**

Tel: +64 9 977 6592

Email: [andrew.john@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.john@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

[www.watercare.co.nz](http://www.watercare.co.nz)



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