

6 May 2011

## Water Infrastructure Group Christchurch Earthquake Recovery Team

Water Infrastructure Group is part of an Australian taskforce working in Christchurch to help restore the city's sewerage system.

More than 80% of Christchurch's water and sewerage systems were severely damaged by the devastating earthquakes in September 2010 and February 2011.

Water Infrastructure Group redeployed resources so that a team of seven skilled operators and three trucks equipped for CCTV camera and water jetting work could travel to New Zealand.

Sydney Water coordinated the taskforce with six Australian pipeline rehabilitation companies providing people and equipment.

Kevin Kane, Water Infrastructure Group's Project Manager in Christchurch explained that when the taskforce arrived on 25 March 2011, it was estimated that about half of Christchurch's 1700 km sewerage network was not functioning.

"As a result of liquefaction, many of the sewer pipes have been left full of sand that is hardening. We're using 2000 psi water jetting hoses to soften the sand so that it can be removed."

"Our hoses are fed into manholes and can push through the pipes for up to 200 metres. When the hydraulic reel on our trucks winds the hose back to the manhole, the sand and water follows the hose back toward the manhole. We can then use suction hoses to pump the sand into trucks for removal."

"By Easter, it was estimated that 65% of the network was working," Kevin said. "There have been aftershocks and it is frustrating to arrive at a section of pipe we've successfully cleared to find that all our good work has been undone by further liquefaction. This means that it will take longer to get the sewerage network fully functioning but I'm confident we will get there and people in Christchurch will be able to get back to a more normal way of life."

"The effects of the earthquake have been severe and the dusty conditions mean that we have to do a lot of maintenance on our equipment but we are making progress. I think I can speak for the whole team when I say that although the conditions are challenging it's been very rewarding to be part of this massive clean-up operation."

"Once the sewer pipe is clear of sand, we can then send our CCTV cameras down the pipe to check for structural damage and provide report to help with any further work required."

"We are helping to get the system working again as well as providing information collected with our CCTV equipment and advice for the next rehabilitation phase to fully reinstate the sewerage system. This will be a huge task and could take years to complete," Kevin said.

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More information

**Leif Ericson**

03 9863 3503

[lericson@wigroup.com.au](mailto:lericson@wigroup.com.au)



## About Water Infrastructure Group

Water Infrastructure Group provides a unique combination of design, build, operate and maintenance services. We offer sole-source accountability for streamlined delivery of sustainable water infrastructure to meet community and business needs.

Our holistic approach to infrastructure delivery results in:

- Award winning innovation
- Reduced costs
- Guaranteed performance
- Individualised solutions
- Comprehensive environmental compliance
- Enhanced risk management

Water Infrastructure Group is an Australian leader in water recycling and Australia's largest supplier of Class A recycled water for farming and residential use. We have led the way with the introduction and regulatory approval of microfiltration technology for water recycling and our innovation and contributions to the water industry have been recognised by Australian and international excellence awards.

We have an extensive track record in the delivery of water and sewage treatment plants and we are one of Australia's leading infrastructure rehabilitation specialists, providing services such as pipeline inspection, assessment, linings, coatings and major valve work.

Formed in 2008, Water Infrastructure Group has over 200 people and combines the complementary skills of the former Earth Tech water projects group with Tyco's Water Technology Australia and Water Services businesses to deliver an expanded range of services that cater for the needs of customers and current developments in the water industry. More information about Water Infrastructure Group can be found at [www.wigroup.com.au](http://www.wigroup.com.au).

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