



Moving a building within a building

A major achievement this year has been successful demolition of half of the old Inlet Pump Station (IPS) building.

The IPS structure needed to be removed to make space for upcoming equipment installation.

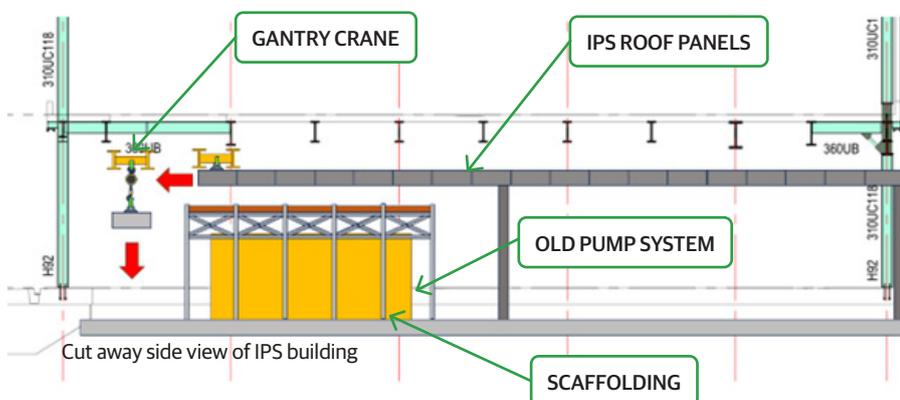
Because the site has a limited footprint, and the IPS needed to remain operational throughout construction, the main process building was constructed around and over it.

This led to the team developing a method of demolition that is a step-change in constructibility and live-operations risk management.

The challenge was:

How do you demolish a building while it is inside another building?

By designing bespoke temporary works!



1. Access was created by removing the IPS roof first, unlocking the whole method
2. An internal mobile lifting system was designed with the temporary gantry and lifting jig allowing heavy panels to be lifted, moved, and removed entirely inside
3. Design engineering mitigated the high risk of heavy lifting over live electrical equipment.

This meant the IPS could then be safely decommissioned and progressively demolished within the completed envelope of the site, without interrupting plant operations or delaying the wider construction programme.

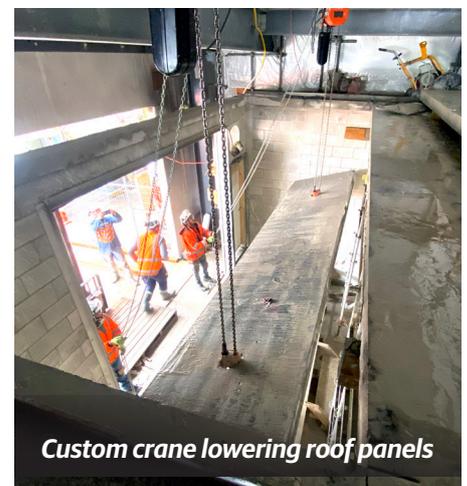
The work was completed piece-by-piece over a 25-day period by a five-person crew, with all works sequenced to align with live system changeovers and parallel construction activities.

Throughout the process, wastewater pumping, power supply, and odour control systems remained fully operational, ensuring continued compliance with operational consents and protection of the surrounding sensitive environment.

Its success is underpinned by close collaboration between the contractor, designer, temporary works engineers, and operations staff. And the high level of trust placed in the project team by Wellington City Council to develop and implement a non-standard solution within a live, critical facility.

This outcome demonstrates how disciplined engineering judgement, innovative temporary works design, and careful integration with live operations can deliver complex infrastructure safely and efficiently in highly constrained environments.

The entire team can be justifiably proud of this achievement.



Custom crane lowering roof panels



News and Progress

February has been a busy and exciting period on site, with major strides made in both equipment installation and electrical systems.

A particular highlight has been having the specialist support team here from Germany assisting with installing the heart of the plant; the thermal dryer.

Thanks to their expertise, the dryer and its condenser are now assembled, with only the final vent connections to be installed later.

Across levels three and four installation work has continued at pace.

The centrifuges, hoppers, and cake pumps are now installed, marking an important milestone in the building's mechanical systems.

The centrifuges, which spin sludge at high speed to remove water and create a transportable 'cake', are especially critical to the overall process and having them in place is a big step forward.

On the first floor, pipework is the primary focus with teams connecting equipment throughout the building.



Complex pipework

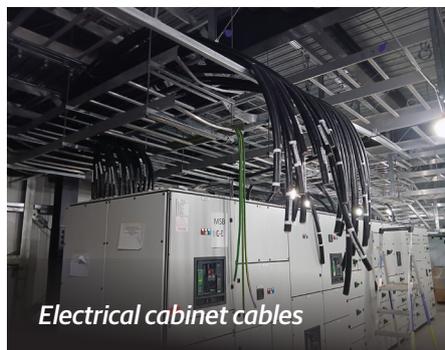
Among this mechanical progress, the electrical cable installation has been a standout activity.

More than **6,500 metres of cable** have been pulled



New power supply cables go in

between the transformers and main switchboards. These cables will deliver power from the transformers to the building and its equipment, forming the backbone of the facility's operations.



Electrical cabinet cables

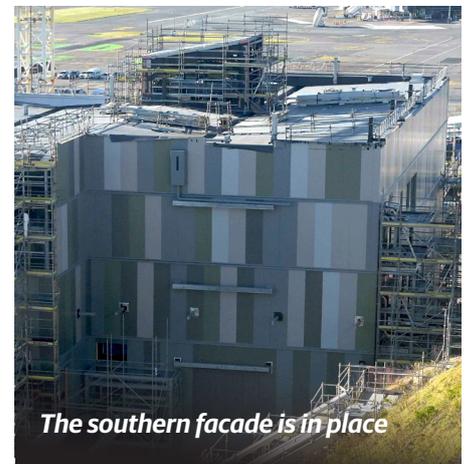
Electricians have also continued running cables through the building's intricate tray network down to the Inlet Pump Station (IPS), which pumps flow up the hill to the existing plant.

This phase is critical as we prepare to commission the next stage of the sludge minimisation facility. Moving the existing IPS pumps over to the new switchboard is essential to allow the demolition of the old IPS building to continue - see this month's feature on page 1.

Elsewhere in the main process building, interior works have been progressing steadily. Teams have been putting up walls, completing HVAC installations, fitting plasterboard, and moving through plasterboard stopping and painting.

These finishing touches are transforming the internal spaces as the project edges closer to completion.

Another visual milestone was reached was the installation of the last section of the façade on the southern wall at the end of February. With this in place, only the final curtain wall above the entrance and the pop-top, on the roof, remain to be completed.



The southern facade is in place

Out at the digesters, work is nearing completion. Crews have been connecting pumps, tanks, and the pipe bridge—key components that will allow sludge to move freely through the site.

The team has now shifted its focus to the gas conditioning area, a tight space between the digesters and the existing IPS pump station.

Installation is underway on the chillers, carbon scrubbers, and biological scrubbers that will support the facility's gas treatment processes.

Overall, February has been a month of strong progress, coordinated effort, and visible transformation across the site.