



Flood Protection Works

Eastbourne

Eastbourne is bordered on one side by steep hills that shed large quantities of water in severe rainfall. In most wet weather situations, surface water is drained away from properties through a substantial network of stormwater pipes, drains and culverts.

However, during extremely heavy rainfall, the capacity of the network to carry this stormwater can be exceeded, and this leads to flooding and ponding in low-lying areas.

There is a perception that we have been experiencing more frequent extreme weather events in recent years. Hutt City Council recognises that this is of concern to residents and businesses and so has put in place both short and long-term strategies to improve the capacity of the stormwater system.

Hutt City's stormwater renewal and upgrade programme

From around 1990, Council began a programme to progressively replace and upgrade the entire stormwater system as pipes reached the end of their useful lives. The programme uses much higher stormwater design standards than those that in the past were generally accepted as best practice.

For example, whereas the old system was built to cope with one-in-five-year weather events, the new standard requires that the system be capable

of withstanding one-in-ten year and one-in-fifty year standards, depending on the level of risk in particular areas. It is also important to note that alternative flow paths are now required in all new developments, to safely carry away floodwater when the capacity of the stormwater pipes is exceeded.

Eastbourne issues

Eastbourne comprises mainly of a relatively narrow belt of land at the bottom of a range of steep, high hills. In normal rainfall conditions a network of stormwater drains and secondary flow paths carry water from the foot of the hills to the ocean. However, during periods of extremely heavy rainfall the capacity of the stormwater system can be exceeded and intakes can be blocked, both of which can cause flooding and ponding.

Short-term strategies for Eastbourne

Following the flooding in the Rona Street and Muritai Road areas in February and August 2004 the Hutt City Council accelerated its flooding 'hotspots' programme.

The programme includes:

- The construction of a secondary flow-path from Marine Parade to the harbour. This is intended to carry floodwaters away from residential properties in the event of stormwater pipes and/or intakes becoming blocked or overloaded
- The installation of additional stormwater drains across Bishop Park
- Improvements to the stormwater intake above Rona Street to reduce the risk of blockage
- The installation of debris interceptors upstream of the intake above Rona Street to also reduce the risk of the intake becoming blocked by debris.

This work has a high priority, and it is planned that the work in Marine Parade and Bishop Park will be completed before the end of 2004. The other two projects will be carried out as soon as resource consent requirements allow.

Longer-term strategies

\$500,000 has been allocated in the 2004/05 Council budget for the installation of additional stormwater pipelines and construction of a pump station in Pukatea Street to provide stormwater drainage to this low-lying area. The pump station will reduce the risk of flooding on private properties during storm events.

For further information:

Phone: 570 6666 or
http://www.huttcity.info/council/services/emo/bad_flood.html

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan is available from the Greater Wellington Regional Council,
Phone: 0800 496 734 or
www.wrc.govt.nz/fp/hutt/htm