

# Important Information – Please Read

## Council's Plan to Stop Wastewater Overflows into Waiwhetu Stream

Issue 3 – July 2006

- **Completion of upgrades in Area 1**
- **Successful upgrades in Area 1**
- **What happens next – Area 2 testing gets underway**

### Completion of upgrades in Area 1

The testing phase of Hutt City Council's plan to stop wastewater (sewer) overflows into Waiwhetu Stream has now been completed in Area 1. Testing of 500 properties in Area 1 resulted in a 70% failure rate, confirming to Council that private drains needed to be made watertight. Upgrading of all drains in Area 1 is well underway, and will be completed later this year.

Council would like to thank all residents in Area 1 who have been fully co-operative over the first stage of the project. Your participation has been integral to the success of stage one of this project and your contribution is helping to reduce overflows into the Waiwhetu Stream.

### Successful upgrades in Area 1

Mrs Jean Wilson of 4 Russell Street recently had the drains on her property upgraded by contractor Allan Perkinson from Perkinson Civil. Mrs Wilson is very happy with the completed work along with a number of other property owners in the area who have also passed compliments onto Perkinson Civil.

**Below: Mrs Jean Wilson on site with Allan Perkinson from Perkinson Civil Limited.**



**Above: A new plastic pipe being inserted through an existing private sewer drain.**

### What happens next?

This newsletter updates you about our progress to date and about our next steps for the project throughout 2006. It is very important you read it as it may affect you.

#### Background

The age of the houses within the project area, means that many of the private sewer drains are past their designed lifespan, and have started failing through root intrusion, displaced joints and cracked pipes. When this is combined with a high groundwater table, this groundwater infiltrates through the failed sewer drain and causes high flows within the pipes.

This problem is exacerbated during heavy rain and the sewer drains in your area become overloaded, causing overflows into Waiwhetu Stream. This overflow of dirty water and untreated effluent is a health and environmental hazard.

Council has a resource consent from the Greater Wellington Regional Council that requires us to substantially reduce



overflows from the current average of about four times a year to once every 5 years by 2009. So far, we have spent over \$3 million upgrading public wastewater drains in the area, and plan to spend a further \$3 million to complete the project.

### Testing

Council's next step is to test the private drains on properties in Area 2 – we will notify the householder one week before the testing takes place on your property. The testing will be done by Council at no cost to you. It will take around half an hour to complete. You don't have to be home while testing is carried out.

#### Two tests will be carried out on each property:

Testing will be undertaken to identify if your drain requires an upgrade. The exact nature of the test will be advised to you, but may include such methods as CCTV, or blocking the drain, filling it with water and measuring the loss.

Testing will identify if your drains require an upgrade or not, and property owners will be notified of their test results.

**If no upgrade is required** we'll confirm the results. You won't need to do anything else.

**If an upgrade is required** you'll need to decide how you would like to have the repairs carried out – managed by the Council, or managed by yourself. Council will be following this up with you. Check the programme timeline on page 3.

## Deciding whether to have Council manage the upgrade or do it yourself

Property owners will receive a letter from Council shortly after testing has been completed, that sets out the options available for upgrading their property.

### Option 1 – Council to manage upgrade

If your drains need upgrading, you have the option of

Council managing the repairs for you – this can save you a lot of time and hassles in doing it yourself. Our competitive tender process ensures the work is completed to the required standard and at a reasonable price.

Council's Consultants, TCB, will provide you with a quote for the upgrade before any work takes place, so you know in advance the maximum amount you'll need to pay.

You should then decide whether to accept (or decline) the quote and tell us your payment choice. To make things easy for you and in response to the submissions, we have arranged three payment options for the cost of upgrade work:


- Lump sum
- Paid through your rates with payments evenly spread over a 5 year period
- A combination of 1 and 2 where you choose how much you can pay as a lump sum with the balance being paid through your rates.

Full details, including interest costs of the rates payment options will be provided to you when you meet with TCB and in further information that Council will send you.

### Option 2 – Managing the upgrade yourself

If you prefer to manage the repairs yourself, you'll need to employ the services of a registered drainlayer. Council will also keep in close contact with you to assist and ensure the work is completed to the required standards.

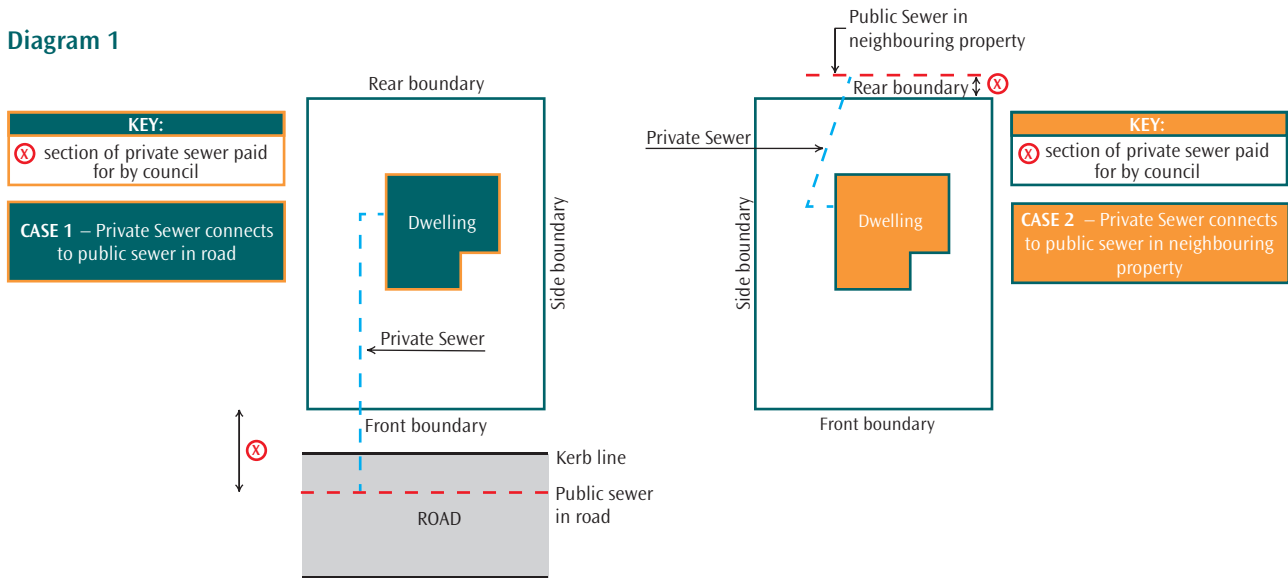
### Council payment for part of private drain in road or neighbouring property

Council will pay for part of the private drain upgrade in some situations. The following diagrams show the section of private drain that Council will pay for. It is the length of private drain from the property boundary to the Council or public drain, where the public drain is in the road or neighbouring property. It is shown as length 

**Right: See diagram 1 showing section of private sewer upgrade to be paid for by Council.**



**Diagram 1**



## Programme Timeline

Council has put together a timeline for the clean-up project, to meet the requirements of our resource consent. Leighton Catchment has been split into three parts (Area 1, Area 2 and Area 3). This project is now underway with completion due within the next two years.

Please see the map at the back of this newsletter to see which area you are in. Work in Area 1 is nearing completion; we plan to carry out the testing and repair in Area 2 during 2006/7, followed by Area 3 in 2007/8.

### Area 2 Timeline 2006/7

If you are in Area 2 here is a detailed timeline for your area. Detailed timelines for Area 3 will be provided next year.

	START	FINISH
Council carries out water tightness testing on private drains	Sep 06	Jan 07
Council informs residents/owners of test results	Dec 06	Feb 07

Council and residents agree on how the repairs will be carried out

Dec 06 Mar 07

Council undertakes Council-managed repairs to private drains

Feb 07 July 07

Council liaises with residents/owners who choose to carry out repairs themselves

Feb 07 Mar 07

## Project team

If you would like to get in touch with our project team call Karla Hodges at TCB on **04 478 0342** or email **karla.hodges@tcb.co.nz**

### For more details

All information relating to this project, including copies of newsletters are available on our website **www.huttcity.info**. You will also receive further newsletters to keep you up to date on progress of the project.

