

# Important Information – Please Read

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

Issue 4 – March 2007

- **Area 1 upgrade nearly complete**
- **Garden triumph on top of upgrade**
- **What happens next – Areas 2 and 3**

### Background

During heavy rain, sewer drains in your area become overloaded causing sewage to overflow into Waiwhetu Stream. This dirty water and untreated effluent is a health and environment hazard. Tests have shown that the overflows are mainly caused by groundwater entering cracks and breaks in private sewer drains, that is, pipes on private property that connect to Council sewers.

The Council has a resource consent from Greater Wellington Regional Council that requires us to substantially reduce overflows from the current average of about four times a year, to once every five years by 2009. So far, we have spent more than \$4 million upgrading public wastewater drains in the area, and plan to spend a further \$2 million to complete the project by 2009.

We have split this project into three parts so that we can work through Areas 1, 2 and 3 in time to meet our resource consent obligations. The map at the back of this newsletter shows which area you are in.

This newsletter updates you on progress to date and next steps for the project throughout 2007. It is very important you read it as it may affect you.



**Above: Alan Perkinson of Perkinson Civil connects a new pipe to the mains as part of the upgrade work carried out in Area 1 during February.**

### Area 1 upgrade nearly complete

Hutt City Council would like to thank property owners in upgrade Area 1 for having their private sewer drains repaired and demonstrating their commitment to reducing wastewater overflows into the Waiwhetu Stream.

The number of owners joining the Council managed private drain upgrade scheme has exceeded expectations with relatively few people opting to have the work carried out privately. As a result almost all the work in Area 1 has now been completed.

### Garden triumph on top of upgrade

Melville Grove resident Colleen Griffiths came out with top honours in the recent Housing New Zealand garden competition for the Hutt Valley region despite having just had her private drains upgraded underneath her garden.

Colleen says she was initially very nervous and envisaged her cottage garden turned into open trenches with piles of dirt everywhere.

The reality, she says, couldn't have been further from this. "Most of the work was underground and the contractors were very good at telling me which areas would be dug up so I could lift my plants and store them in a shady area for a few days until the work was complete and I put them back."

Approximately 40 metres of new pipe was inserted into the old pipe which required digging up a couple of small pits to complete the work. Melville Grove is in Area 1 for the private drain upgrades and the work was carried out in September by Perkinson Civil Ltd.

Even though the work was completed in plenty of time Colleen was hesitant about entering the gardening competition. "The garden just wasn't quite up to what I wanted."

Staff from Perkinson Civil talked her into entering and the property won the top prize for the region.

Colleen won the competition once before when she lived at a different address. Although she says there is no magic formula



**Above: Colleen Griffiths in front of her prize winning garden.**

to winning she puts in hours of hard work, has a passion for the garden and makes good use of cuttings from family and friends.

## What happens next in Area 2

### Testing results in Area 2

Preliminary testing of private sewer drains on properties in Area 2 is nearly finished and shows a failure rate of 80 per cent. This is similar to the original results from Area 1. Property owners will be receiving letters advising whether or not their drains have failed the tests and require repair work.

**If testing of your drains shows that they have ‘passed’** we’ll confirm this to you in writing. 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.

## Opting to have the Council manage the upgrade or to do it yourself

Owners of properties whose drains require upgrading will receive

a letter from the Council that sets out the two options available for upgrading private sewer drains.

### Option 1 – Council to manage upgrade

If your drains need upgrading, you have the option of the Council managing the repairs for you. The Council’s consultants, Truebridge Callender Beach Ltd (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. The Council contractors who will undertake the actual work are Perkinson Civil and Excell Corporation.

If you select the Council to manage the upgrade there are three payment options for the cost of upgrade work:

- (i) one lump sum payment within three months of date of invoice
- (ii) costs added to your two-monthly rates instalment with repayment spread over five years
- (iii) partial payment by lump sum within three months of date of invoice and the balance on rates over five years.

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 the 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. The Council will keep in close contact with you to assist and ensure the work is completed to the required standards.

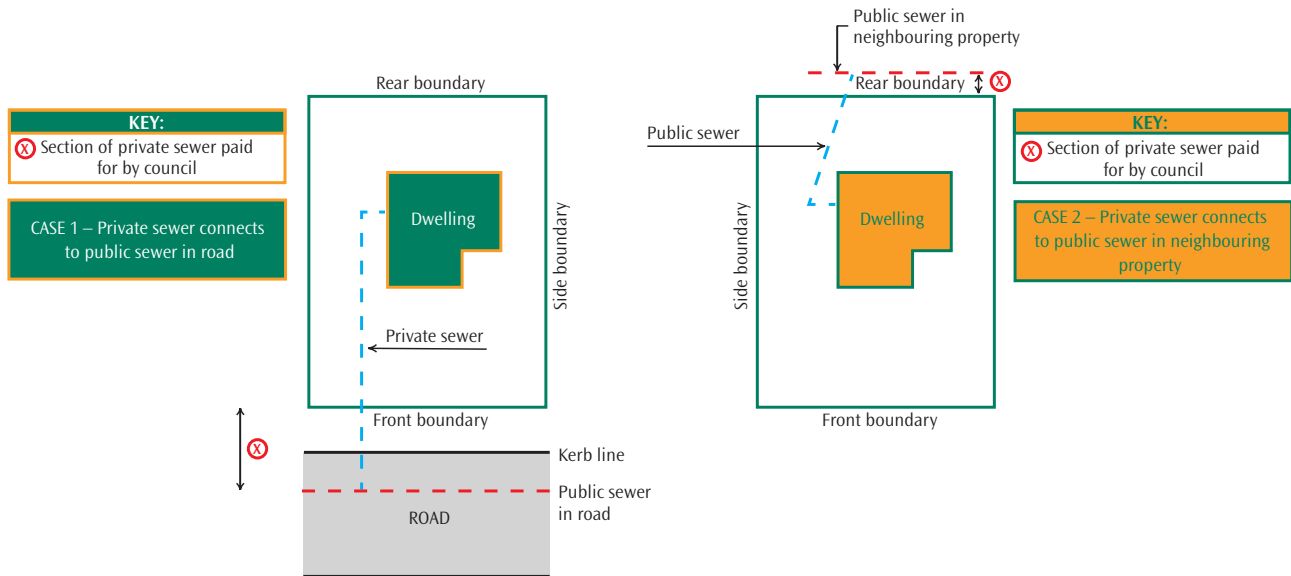
### Council payment for part of private drain in road or neighbouring property

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

## What happens next in Area 3

We have now begun testing in Area 3. The remainder of private drains in Area 3 will be tested by the end of this year with work in Area 3 to be completed by the end of 2008.

Below: Diagram showing section of private sewer upgrade to be paid for by the Council.



## Programme Timeline

### Area 1 2007

	START	FINISH
Council undertakes Council-managed repairs to private drains		Mar 07
Council liaises with residents/owners who choose to carry out repairs themselves		Jun 07

### Area 2 2007/2008

Council carries out water tightness testing on private drains	Sep 06	Mar 07
Council informs residents/owners of test results	Feb 07	Mar 07
Council and residents/owners agree on how the repairs will be carried out	Feb 07	Apr 07
Council undertakes Council-managed repairs to private drains	Mar 07	Mar 08
Council liaises with residents/owners who choose to carry out repairs themselves	Mar 07	Mar 08

### Area 3 2007/2008

Council carries out water tightness testing on private drains	Sep 06	Feb 08
Council informs residents/owners of test results	Mar 08	Apr 08
Council and residents/owners agree on how the repairs will be carried out	Apr 08	May 08
Council undertakes Council-managed repairs to private drains	June 08	May 09
Council liaises with residents/owners who choose to carry out repairs themselves	June 08	May 09

Those properties in Area 3 which have already been tested and failed the water tightness test will be informed within the next few weeks; however, the repairs will be carried out from March 2008.

# Waiwhetu Stream – Wastewater overflows

## Project team

If you would like to get in touch with our project team call Mike Ryan of TCB on **478 0342**, or email [michael.ryan@tcb.co.nz](mailto:michael.ryan@tcb.co.nz)

## For more details

All information relating to this project, including copies of newsletters are available on our website [www.huttcity.info](http://www.huttcity.info)

You will also receive further newsletters to keep you up to date on progress of the project.

If you want to speak to the Council direct, call **570 6666** or email [contact@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:contact@huttcity.govt.nz)

## Area map

Map of areas where private drain upgrade work is required to help stop wastewater overflows into Waiwhetu Stream.

