

Important Information – Please Read

Council's Plan to Stop Wastewater Overflows
into Waiwhetu Stream
Issue 1 – September 2005

What happens next

Hutt City Council recently got in touch with you about their proposed plan to stop wastewater (sewer) overflows into Waiwhetu Stream. Thanks to the many people who made submissions and attended public meetings.

This newsletter tells you about our next steps following the Council's decision on 2 August 2005 for the next stages of the project. It is very important you read it as it may affect you.

Background

During heavy rain, 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. Tests have shown that the overflows are caused by stormwater entering cracks and breaks in mainly private sewer drains, that is, pipes on private property that connect to Council pipes.

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

We have had an excellent response from residents. 88% were in favour of taking action to reduce the overflows and 70% supported Council's proposals.

We understand this project may cause you some inconvenience, and would like to thank you for your cooperation and patience while we work on cleaning up our environment.

Next steps

Council has put together a timeline for the clean-up project, to meet the requirements of our resource consent. We will be splitting the project into three parts: Area 1, Area 2 and Area 3. Please see the map at the back of this newsletter to see which area you are in. We plan to carry out the testing and repair in Area 1 first in 2005/6, followed by Area 2 in 2006/7 and then Area 3 in 2007/8. Some testing will also be carried out in parts of Area 2 in 2005/6.

Area 1 timeline 2005-6

If you are in Area 1 here is a detailed timeline for your area. Detailed timelines for areas 2 and 3 will be provided in subsequent years.

	START	FINISH
Council carries out water tightness testing on private drains	Sep 05	Nov 05
Council informs residents/owners of test results	Oct 05	Dec 05
Council and residents agree on how the repairs will be carried out	Nov 05	Feb 06
Council undertakes Council-managed repairs to private drains	Feb 06	Jun 06
Council liaises with residents/owners who choose to carry out repairs themselves	Nov 05	Jun 06

Testing

Council's next step is to test the drains on your property – 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.

Once the testing is complete we will notify you of the 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 as on our timeline above.



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

Option 1 – Council to manage upgrade

If your drains are found to be faulty, Council will be happy to manage the repairs for you – this can save you a lot of time and hassles in doing it yourself. Our competitive tender process will ensure you get the best price, and ensure the work is completed to an acceptable standard.

We 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 within 15 working days. To make things easy for you and in response to the submissions, we have arranged three payment options:

1. Pay for the work as a lump sum on completion of the job – you will have up to 2 months to do this.
2. Pay over five years, with the cost of repairs added to your rates.
3. Pay part of the cost on completion, with the balance added to your rates to be paid over five years.

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 keep in close contact with you if you choose this option. Council will check that the work carried out meets the required standards.

Council will be following up with you so that you can make your decision about which option you wish to choose, by the required date.

Upgrade completed

Once the upgrade is completed we will re-test your property's drains to ensure the upgrade is to the required standards.

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.

To get in touch, call 570 6666 or email contact@huttcity.govt.nz

Waiwhetu Stream – Wastewater overflows

Testing, Repair Timeline and Map

