

Important Information – Please Read

Council's Plan to Stop Wastewater Overflows into Waiwhetu Stream

Issue 2 – March 2006

- All 506 properties in Area 1 Waiwhetu have been tested
- Letter informing of test results currently being sent to all Area 1 property owners
- Homeowners need to discuss upgrade and payment options if upgrade is required

Progress Report

The testing phase of Hutt City Council's plan to stop wastewater (sewer) overflows into Waiwhetu Stream has now been completed in Area 1. This newsletter updates you about progress and about our next steps.

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 groundwater entering cracks and breaks, mainly in private sewer drains, that is, the pipes on private property that connect to Council sewers.

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, Council has spent more than \$3 million upgrading public wastewater drains in the area, and we plan to spend a further \$3 million in order to complete the project by 2009.

What do homeowners need to do next?

Test results identified that 68% of private drains in Area 1 have failed the watertightness test. Property owners are currently being notified of their test results.

If no upgrade is required the letter will advise of the pass. 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.

If you receive a Council letter advising that upgrading is required, then please contact the Council's engineering

consultants, Truebridge Callender Beach (TCB) directly (Karla Hodges on 478 0342 or karla.hodges@tcb.co.nz) or complete a form and return it to the Council. TCB will visit you to discuss your individual preferences and help decide whether to join the Council managed programme or arrange the upgrade yourself.

Below: Councillor Margaret Cousins, Chair of Hutt City's Operations and Compliance Committee inspects the site with Dave McPhee from Perkinson Civil Ltd. Perkinson Civil have been selected as Council's upgrading private drains contractor.





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

Council's letter advising those property owners whose drains have failed the test sets out two options for upgrading.

Option 1 – Council to manage upgrade

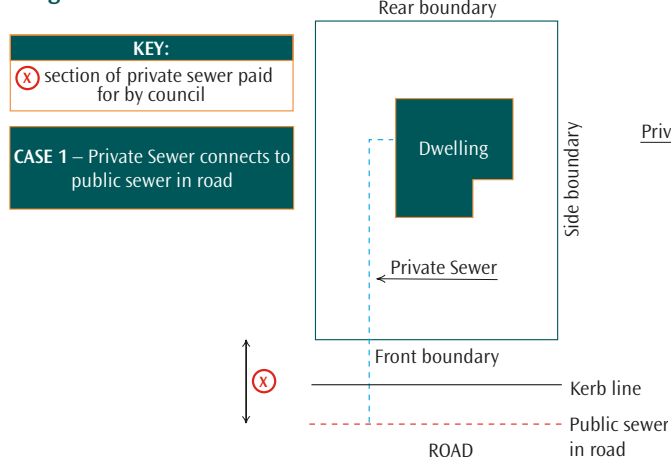
If your drains need upgrading, you have the option of Council managing the repairs for you – this can save you a lot of time and hassles in doing it yourself. Our competitive tender process ensures the work is completed satisfactorily at a reasonable price.

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

1. Lump sum
2. Paid through your rates with payments evenly spread over a 5 year period.
3. 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 etc will be provided to you when you meet with TCB and in further information that Council will send you.

Diagram 1



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.

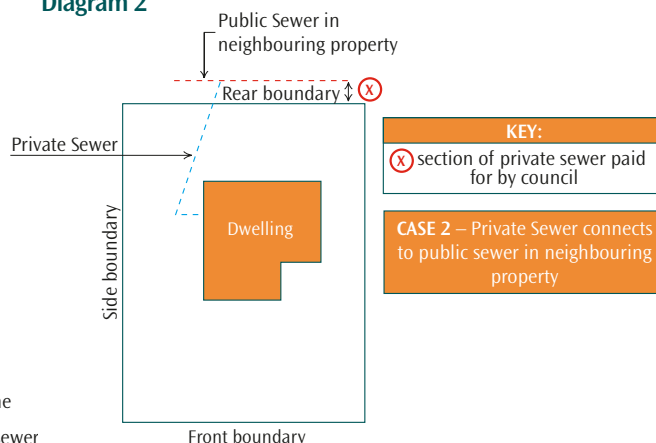
You or your registered drainlayer must also contact Karla Hodges or Nick Benson at TCB when your upgrade is nearing completion – they will arrange for your sewer drain to be retested before it is closed off. The cost of the retest will be \$75 if you contact us at this stage. If your drain needs to be tested after the upgraded drain has been closed off, the inspection will cost \$150 because of the extra work involved.

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. This is where the public drain is in the road or neighbouring property. It is shown as length (X).

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

Diagram 2





Programme Timeline

Council has put together a timeline for the clean-up project, to meet the requirements of our resource consent. The project has been split into three parts (Area 1, Area 2 and Area 3) with one area being completed each year.

Please see the map at the back of this newsletter to see which area you are in. Area 2 will be tested and repaired in 2006/7 and then Area 3 in 2007/8. Some testing of parts of Area 2 has also been carried out 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 | Jan 06 |
| Council informs residents/owners of test results | Dec 05 | Mar 06 |
| Council and residents agree on how the repairs will be carried out | Dec 05 | April 06 |
| Council undertakes Council-managed repairs to private drains | Feb 06 | Sept 06 |
| Council liaises with residents/owners who choose to carry out repairs themselves | Feb 06 | Sept 06 |

Your project team

It is important that you contact Karla Hodges at TCB on 04 478 0342 or email karla.hodges@tcb.co.nz if you are notified that your drains need upgrading. Alternatively you can return the form supplied with the letter to Council who will in turn forward your details to TCB so they can contact you.

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

Below: Karla Hodges, Engineer, from Council's Consultants, TCB on site with Jordan Keene from Perkinson Civil Ltd.



Waiwhetu Stream – Wastewater overflows

Testing, Repair Timeline and Map

