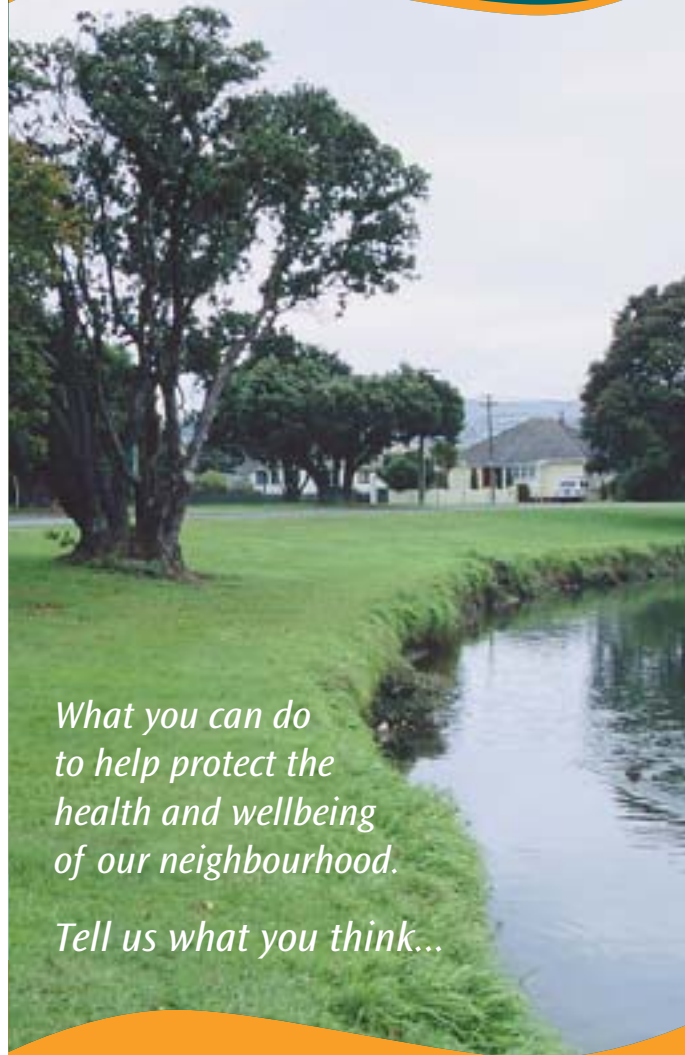




IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

**COUNCIL'S PROPOSED PLAN
TO STOP WASTEWATER OVERFLOWS
INTO WAIWHETU STREAM**



*What you can do
to help protect the
health and wellbeing
of our neighbourhood.*

Tell us what you think...



Contact

To find out more about how you can help protect the Waiwhetu Stream, visit www.huttcity.info, call 570 6666 or email contact@huttcity.govt.nz

Public meetings

Two public meetings have been organised to give residents an opportunity to discuss any concerns.

Thursday 19 May

7.00pm

Te Aroha Clubrooms

148 Whites Line East

Tuesday 24 May

7.00pm

Our Lady of the Rosary School Hall

12 Wainui Road, Gracefield



May 2005

Pipe Up

Clean and safe living in our environment

The Waiwhetu Stream is popular for its beautiful walkways and native bush. However, during periods of heavy rain sewer pipes in the area become overloaded and overflow into the stream.

We have to stop these overflows, which are putting the environment at risk. Recent decisions made under the Resource Management Act require Hutt City Council to make significant progress towards reducing the number of overflows into the Waiwhetu Stream over the next five years.

This brochure tells you about Council's proposed plan to fix the problem. We want you to give us feedback on the plan by filling in the submission form at the back and posting it back to us. Please take the time to fill it in – your views are important and will be taken into account when the Council makes its decision.

We all have the right to a clean, healthy environment. And the right to live safe and healthy lives. Let's do our part in keeping our stream safe and clean – for the benefit of the whole community.



How does wastewater get into the Waiwhetu Stream?

When they are functioning properly, stormwater and wastewater systems operate totally separately.

Stormwater should be able to drain into streams, rivers and the harbour.

Wastewater (from showers, toilets and laundries) must be treated before it is released into the environment. It is piped to the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant where it is screened, biologically treated, and disinfected before being discharged into Cook Strait at Pencarrow Head.

The wastewater system comprises private drains that take the wastewater from your house out to the public wastewater system. Council is responsible for ensuring these public pipes are up to scratch.

However, during times of heavy rain, cracks and breaks in mainly private wastewater drains (ie the pipes on private property that connect to Council's pipes) are allowing large quantities of stormwater into the wastewater system.

This overloads the wastewater system and results in overflows of dirty water and untreated effluent into the Waiwhetu Stream and surrounding low lying areas.

As a result of these leaking private drains, untreated wastewater is being discharged into Waiwhetu Stream up to four times a year.

It's time to clean up our act.

What are Council's legal obligations?

Council has a resource consent from the Greater Wellington Regional Council which, recognising the current problems, does allow wastewater to be discharged into the stream during times of heavy rain.

But this consent, which expires in 2009, contains a requirement that says Hutt City Council has to make substantial progress in reducing overflows. The effect of this is that Council has to ensure the number of overflows into Waiwhetu Stream is reduced to a one in five year return period.

In practical terms this means overflows into the stream are reduced from the current four times a year to on average once every five years.

What has Hutt City Council done?

Hutt City Council has to date spent over \$3 million upgrading public stormwater and wastewater drains in the area.

Included in the upgrades were repairs to faulty public drains, and extra wastewater storage and pumping facilities in Seaview and the Leighton Avenue catchment area.

We've still got more work to do, and this is planned for the next three years. But the plain fact is that public drains aren't the major problem. It is drains on private property that are the main culprits, and that means private property owners need to take some responsibility to ensure that their drains are not leaking and posing a threat to community health and the environment.

Why is it the property owner's problem?

Tests undertaken in this neighbourhood showed that around 85 per cent of private drains were faulty.

As a property owner, you're responsible for keeping your property up to a certain standard. And the drains are part of that property, just like your house, fence or garden.

If your wastewater drains and pipes are leaking, it is very important that they are fixed.

There are real environmental and health benefits to be gained in fixing these drains. A trial completed in this neighbourhood showed that, when both public and private drains were fixed, leakages were reduced by a massive 70 per cent. That's a lot less waste in our waterways!

So what is Hutt City Council's proposed plan?

We will come and test your drains at no cost to you. If your drains are found to be faulty, we could then organise to have them fixed.

We would, of course, use reputable contractors and go through a competitive tender process – so you can be sure the job would be done well, and you can expect to pay less than what you might be quoted if you arranged it yourself.

What could the cost be?

The exact cost will depend on the type and condition of the drains and what needs to be fixed. As an example, in the trial recently completed by Council, the average cost of repairs to private drains was \$2000 (GST excluded). But if the job cost less, you'd pay less – and if it cost more, you'd pay more.

How would I pay for it?

Council is mindful that, if your drains are found to be leaking, this would be a significant unexpected bill that could cause some people hardship.

Council is considering giving property owners two options to pay for the cost of repairs.

One option would be to pay for the job as a lump sum upon completion.

Another option could be to have the total cost included with your rates over a period of say, five years. This may involve paying more than if you pay as a lump sum, because Council would incur some extra costs such as interest.

Could I choose to organise the repairs myself?

If you think you can get the work done at a better price, Council will give you a report of the faults so that your tradespeople will know what to do. You would, of course, be required to use a registered drainlayer and we would check the finished job to ensure that it met the required standard.

What are the next steps?

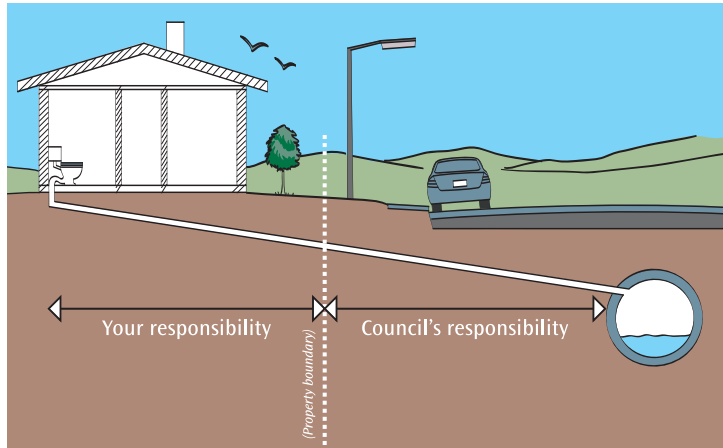
Once we have consulted with property owners and other interested groups, Council will meet to make a decision on how to deal with this issue. This is why it is so important you have your say on this proposed plan.

Fill in the submission form over the page, tear it from the brochure and return it (postage-free) to us by 10 June 2005.

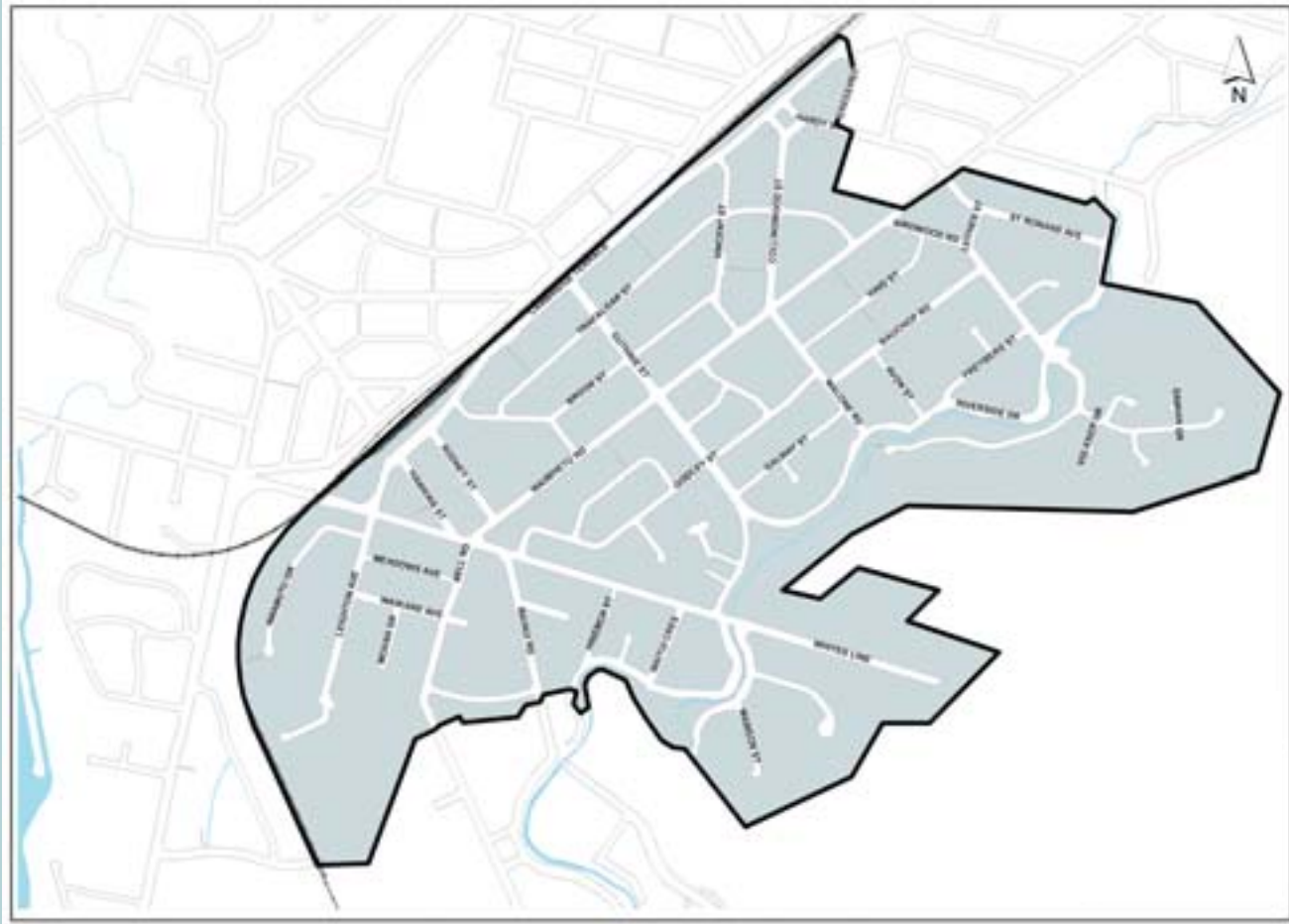
To ensure Council gets as much feedback from the community as possible we'll also be carrying out focus group meetings, to which you may be invited to give your views.

Public meetings are also being held to discuss the plan. Once the consultation is over, we'll be in touch again to let you know the results and what our plans are.

*For more details, call 570 6666,
visit www.huttcity.info or email
contact@huttcity.govt.nz*



What area is included?



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Hutt City Council is very keen to hear your views on the proposed plan for fixing private wastewater drains.

Please fill in this form and post it back to us.

Please note that submissions can be made online at www.huttcity.info or by fax on 569 4290.

Submissions close 10 June 2005.



Leave blank for office use

Received

Entered

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____
Mobile _____

(Please tick the number that best describes your view)

1. Do you support action to reduce wastewater overflows into the Waiwhetu Stream?

Yes 1

No 2

2. How satisfactory do you find the Council's solution to the private drains problem in the Waiwhetu area?

Very satisfactory 1

Quite satisfactory 2

Not very satisfactory 3

Not at all satisfactory 4

3. If you have rated the Council's solution as 'not very satisfactory' or 'not at all satisfactory', please tell us why:

4. If your drains were found to be faulty, would you choose to

• Have the Council organise and manage the repairs 1

• Organise and manage the repairs yourself 2

5. Which of the following payment options would you choose?

(Please tick the number that best describes your view)

• Pay a lump sum at the end of the job 1

• Have the cost included in your rates and pay it back over five years 2

• Pay in some other way *(please specify)* 3

6. Please indicate if you are: a property owner 1
a tenant 2

7. Would you like to present your submission in person?

Yes No

If yes, please provide a daytime contact telephone number:

email: _____

8. Please give us any other comments you may have.

**(Continue on separate sheet if necessary)*

Thank you very much for your time.

tear along here