

What we're doing:

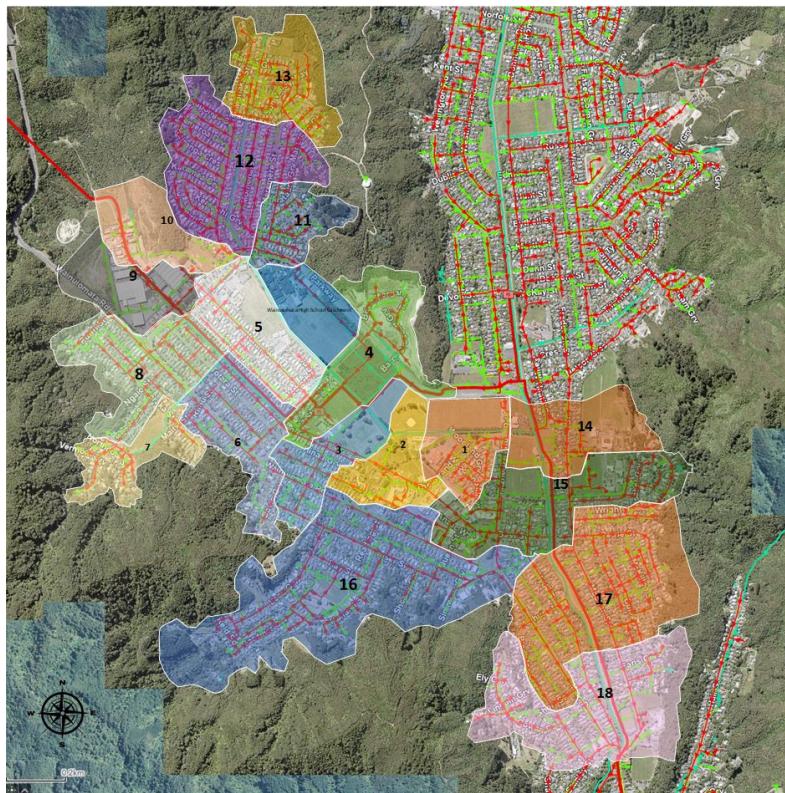
We are currently delivering Human Health Mitigation Plans in Lower Hutt. The purpose of these plans is to identify, lessen or fix sources of pollution that may risk human health. We are:

- Taking targeted water quality samples
- Inspecting stormwater and wastewater pipes on private property and working with property owners to repair faults
- Inspecting and repairing pipes in the public network

We are currently working in the Black Creek catchment in Wainuiomata and are developing our plan for our next catchment.

Black Creek investigation area

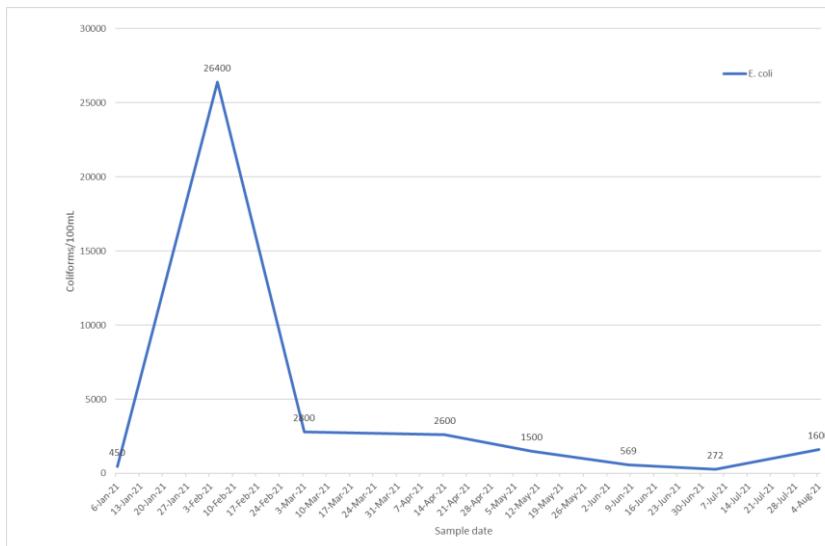
Earlier this year we conducted targeted water quality sampling to confirm which sub-catchments we should prioritise for private property inspection. This sampling directed our focus to sub-catchments 14,15 and 17 as shown in the figure below.



Our inspections in these sub-catchments are well underway and we plan to have these completed by the end of the year. The first properties to be advised of the outcome of our inspections will be those with a fault. If you receive a letter and have any questions, please contact the Knowing your Pipes team member that is listed on your letter.

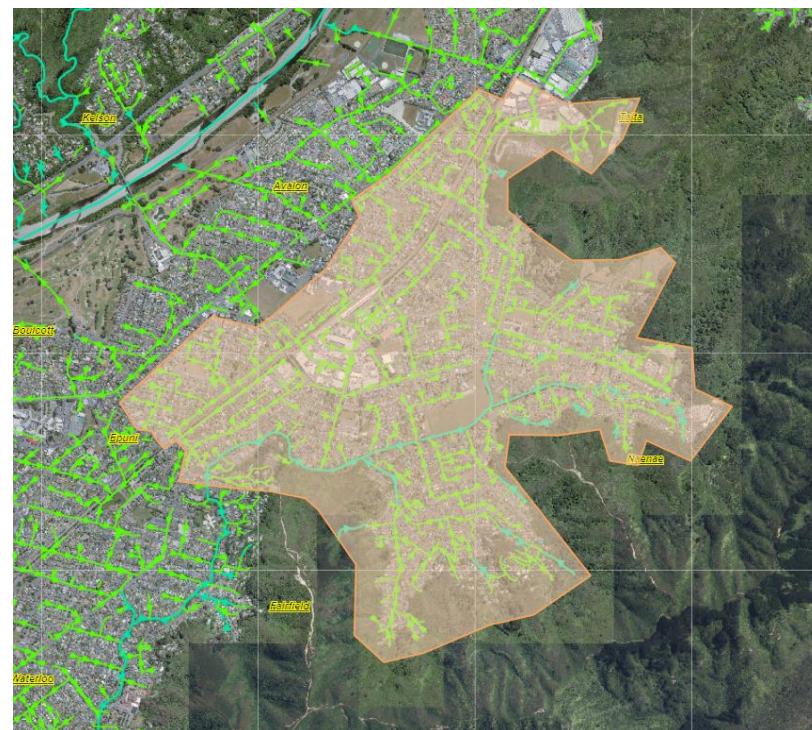
All properties that the Knowing Your Pipes team inspected, will receive a letter to advise what we found. These will be sent later next year.

We are continuing to collect monthly water quality samples from Black Creek. The results for the creek at Moohan Street (the lowest point in the catchment) from January 2021 are in the graph below. The results show that there is still an on-going pollution problem in the catchment. The high spike in February was collected during a rainfall event.



Waiwhetu Stream investigation area

The next catchment we're investigating is the upper reaches of the Waiwhetu Stream as shown in the figure below. Our first activity in this catchment will be taking targeted water quality samples to confirm which sub-catchments we should prioritise for private property inspection.



How can you help?

Let us know if you see something that doesn't look or smell right

We routinely monitor the stormwater network by collecting a monthly water quality samples from 24 locations throughout Hutt City. As samples are only taken once per month and not from every place in the stormwater network, we may not detect pollution. This is where the Hutt community can help by lending your eyes and noses.

If you notice a change in your local water way, please log it with Hutt City Council. They will pass this information to us, and we will investigate. Recently a member of the Hutt, did this when they noticed their local stream had an odour and what appeared to be sewer debris floating in it. We sent a crew to investigate. They found a broken sewer pipe, arranged a quick repair as well as completing a clean-up. Ka pai team.

Please contact us if you receive a letter

We understand it may be very stressful to receive a letter from us telling you there is a problem with your private pipes that needs to be fixed. We also know that your plumber or drain layer is likely to be busy. Please contact the person named on your letter to tell them about your situation. If we don't hear from you, we will continue to send you letters.

If you require financial support, please reach out to Hutt City Council.

Arrange your own inspection and make recommended repairs

We have prioritised where we have completed private network inspections to best use our resources. If we didn't inspect your property and you are within the investigation area, we recommend that you engage your own plumber to inspect your lateral as it could be impacting the downstream water quality.

Keep foreign matter out of pipes

Wastewater pipes carry used water. When the pipes or pumps get blocked or overloaded, wastewater backs up and overflows. This overflow water often makes its way to streams and the coast. An overflow in dry weather is usually caused by foreign material such as wet wipes that people have flushed down toilets, and fats, oils and grease washed down sinks. Even roots in pipes can cause dry weather blockages and overflows.

Keep stormwater out of the wastewater network

Overflows also occur when there is more water in the wastewater network than the pipes can carry. This happens when it rains, due to pipe leaks and stormwater connections wrongly made into wastewater pipes.

