

What we're doing:

We are currently delivering Human Health Mitigation Plans in Wellington City. 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

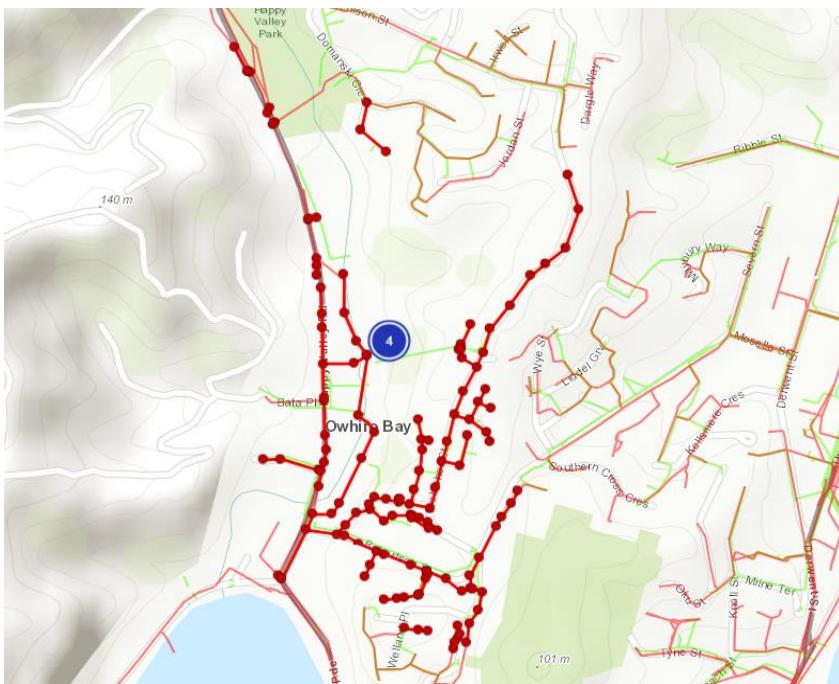
We are currently working in the Ōwhiro Stream catchment of Ōwhiro Bay and have commenced our investigation in Newlands.

Ōwhiro Stream investigation area

We have completed the private property inspections and will soon issue letters to property owners to advise them of the outcome.

In addition to the private inspections, we will be completing a Closed circuit Television (CCTV) inspection of the public wastewater network in the new year.

This inspection is focused on the lower area of the Ōwhiro Stream catchment as recommended by the water quality monitoring review. The pipes to be inspected are highlighted in the figure below.



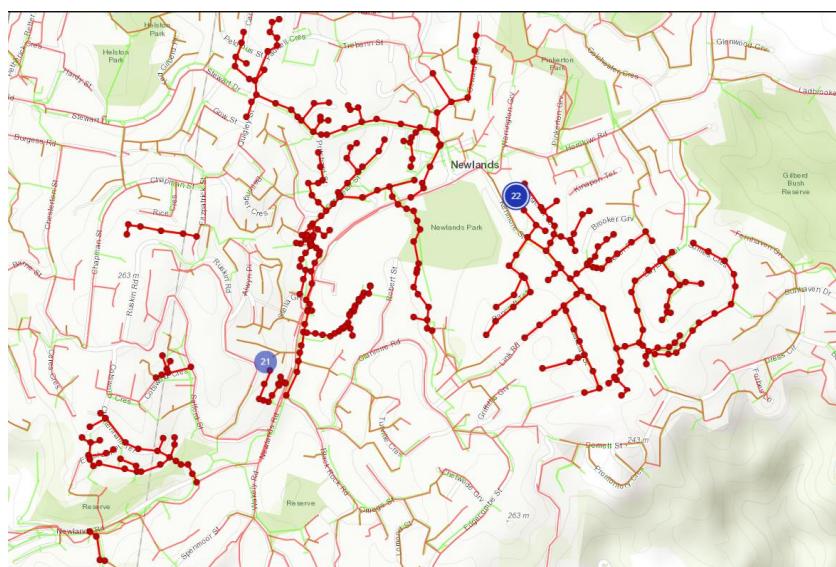
We will use the CCTV footage to complete a condition assessment. The condition information will be used to inform the Wellington City wastewater renewal programme. If we find any significant faults during the inspection, we will schedule an immediate repair.

Newlands investigation area

We have started our investigation in Newlands. We are currently taking targeted water quality samples to confirm if there are particular sub-catchments we should prioritise. The catchment is in the figure below.



In addition to the private inspections, we will be doing a CCTV inspection of the public wastewater network. The inspection will be staged over the next two financial years. The pipes to be inspected are highlighted below.



We will use the CCTV footage to complete a condition assessment. The condition information will be used to inform the Wellington City wastewater renewal programme. If we find any significant faults during the inspection, we will schedule an immediate repair.

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 52 locations throughout Wellington 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 Wellington community can help by lending your eyes and noses.

If you notice a change in your local water way, please log it with Wellington City Council. They will pass this information to us, and we will investigate. Recently a member of the Hutt City community alerted us that 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 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.

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.

