

# TE ATATU MATTERS



## Why we all have a role to play in reducing wastewater overflows

Nobody likes wastewater overflows. While we do our best to prevent them, unfortunately they do occur.

Our wastewater network is designed to protect public health so, in the event of heavy rain, pipe blockages or breakages, wastewater will overflow into the environment – through manholes and engineered overflow points – rather than backing up in pipes and flowing onto streets or back into your home.

It is in periods of heavy rainfall that most overflows occur; these are called wet-weather overflows. Taipari Strand in Te Atatu is one of many engineered overflow locations across the Auckland region where heavily-diluted wastewater will enter the environment when the volume of stormwater in our wastewater system exceeds the capacity of our pipes.

A major contributor to wet-weather overflows is private wastewater drains. This is largely because there are many residential properties, in Te Atatu and throughout the Auckland

region, with stormwater downpipes connected to our wastewater network or with gully traps that are not raised off the ground.

In heavy rain, the amount of stormwater that drains from an average roof is equivalent to the wastewater flows from more than 40 households. This is why it is essential for houses to have rainwater plumbed into approved stormwater outlets, rather than allow it to flow into the wastewater network.

You may not even be aware that your connection is not compliant. If you are building or developing, it is a great opportunity to ask your plumber or drainlayer to ensure your wastewater and stormwater pipes are separated, and your gully trap is raised off the ground.


By ensuring your private wastewater and stormwater pipes are well maintained and compliant you are doing your bit to improve the water quality of Auckland's streams and beaches.

### PREVENTING OVERFLOWS


## THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO:



Check that your stormwater downpipes connect to the stormwater network, not to our wastewater network. 

Always scrape your cooking fats into the rubbish bin, not into the sink. This will prevent the fat from causing blockages in the pipes. 



Plant trees away from your pipes and ours. Doing this means the roots won't reach them and cause damage. 

# Work we're doing to reduce overflows

Over the next 10 years, we will invest \$4.7 billion into capital programmes to manage growth and replace ageing assets, and respond to increasing service-level demands such as the management of overflows.

The following projects will reduce the frequency and volume of overflows in the Henderson Creek catchment, which includes Te Atatu:

## Concourse Storage Tank – completed in 2012

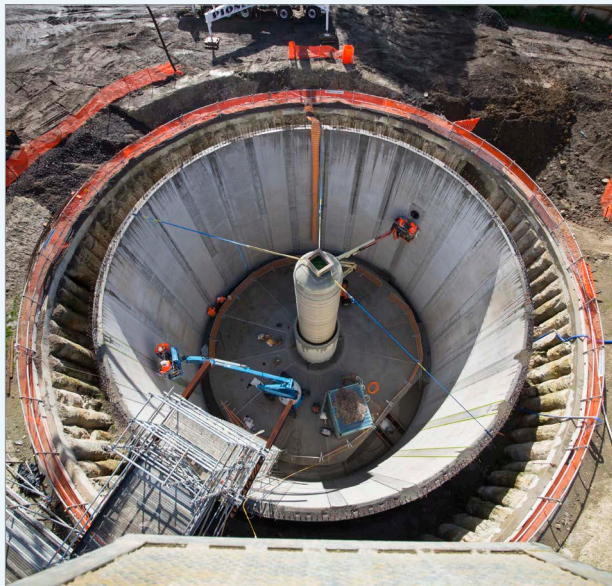
This \$12-million, above-ground wastewater storage tank in Henderson has both increased our network capacity and reduced overflows in the process. Located upstream from Taipari Strand, the Concourse captures overflows that, previously, were released into Henderson Creek.



*Pictured above: The Concourse Storage Tank during construction.*

## Glen Eden Storage Tank – construction starts in early 2016

Once constructed, this \$15-million, below-ground wastewater storage tank in the upper Henderson Creek catchment will reduce overflows significantly as well as allow for future growth.



*Pictured right: An aerial view of the Kohimarama Wastewater Storage Tank during construction; the Glen Eden tank will be similar.*

## Northern Interceptor – proposed construction starts in 2017

Planning is under way for the installation of a \$170-million wastewater pipeline from the Hobsonville Pump Station to the Rosedale Wastewater Treatment Plant. This will reduce the potential for wastewater overflows from the existing network by providing infrastructure to service growth.

## Community education

We are building public understanding of overflow issues and of the ways in which homeowners can help to reduce stormwater inflow into our wastewater network. To do this, we are using various channels, including our customer newsletter, *Tapped In*, the media, the Watercare website, and by keeping local boards and community stakeholders informed.

If you come across an overflow, please phone us on (09) 442 2222. We will arrive within one hour to repair and thoroughly clean the affected area.

Auckland Council recommends that the public does not swim for 48 hours after heavy rain at all urban beaches and in all waterways.

## GULLY TRAPS AND STORMWATER DOWNPIPES

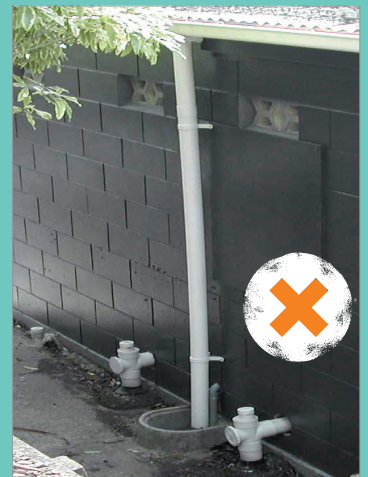
A wastewater pipe connects to a **WELL-CONSTRUCTED GULLY TRAP.**

It is raised off the ground so that surface water doesn't flow down into our wastewater network.



This is a **NON-COMPLIANT STORMWATER DOWNPIPE.**

Only wastewater pipes should connect to a wastewater gully trap.



## CONTACT US

*Te Atatu Matters* is your newsletter.

If you would like to talk to us about any stories from this edition or your ideas for future issues, we'd love to hear from you.

To be in touch, please phone our communications team on (09) 442 2222 or email [info@water.co.nz](mailto:info@water.co.nz)