

# Wastewater made simple

Te waipara i ō tātou kāinga



## **This booklet contains information about what happens beyond your sink, bath and toilet, the most common faults that occur on private properties, and how to fix them.**

Horowhenua District Council provides wastewater services to residents in Levin, Foxton, Foxton Beach, Tokomaru, Waitārere Beach, Shannon and Mangaore. This involves collecting wastewater from private properties, piping it to treatment plants, treating the wastewater to meet environmental standards, and discharging treated wastewater to land via irrigation and wetlands.

Every year Council carries out maintenance work and capital upgrades to ensure that the district's wastewater infrastructure remains in good condition. This includes carrying out condition assessments to identify faults that could allow rainwater into the wastewater system.

### **If a fault is identified:**

- It is Council's responsibility to fix the fault if it is located in pipes from the private property boundary to the wastewater treatment plant; and
- It is a property owner's responsibility to fix the fault if it is located inside their property boundary.

## **Why do wastewater faults on private property matter?**

**He aha ngā raru ina hapa te rere atu o te waipara i ō tātou kāinga?**

During heavy rainfall events the district's wastewater treatment plants can receive between two to four times more flow than usual. This is caused by rainwater entering the wastewater network.

This impacts the performance of all parts of the wastewater network. As a result, Council spends money upgrading assets and treating millions of litres of wastewater that doesn't need treatment.

### **There are numerous ways in which rainwater can enter the wastewater system including:**

- Gully traps that aren't sufficiently elevated above ground level to avoid rainwater draining into them;
- Leaks in wastewater pipes that have developed defects over time; and
- Roof downpipes diverted into gully traps.

These small problems on many properties can add up to a lot of water having to be piped and treated unnecessarily.

## **How can faults on private property be fixed?**

**Me pēhea te whakatika i ngā hapa waipara i ō tātou kāinga?**

Most of the problems we encounter are simple ones relating to gully traps and downpipes. Property owners can usually do the repairs on these themselves at very little cost.

However, if there is a fault on your property and you feel you need help, talk to your plumber or drainlayer.

## What is a downpipe?

He aha te mahi a te waiputa?

Downpipes are pipes used to carry rainwater from a roof to a stormwater pipe, soakpit or water tank.

A correctly-installed downpipe does not discharge to a gully trap.



## What is a gully trap?

He aha tēnei mea te puta waipara?

A gully trap is a fixture located against an outside wall of your house. It receives wastewater from your kitchen sink, laundry, bathroom and toilet.

The current Council Wastewater Bylaw requires a gully trap to sit 25mm above the ground level on paved surfaces and 100mm above the ground level on unpaved surfaces.



## What is a wastewater lateral?

He aha te paipa waipara tūhono?

A wastewater lateral is a pipe that carries wastewater from the gully trap to the private property boundary. A broken wastewater lateral will allow rainwater to seep in or cause blockages on your property.

A lateral is a buried pipe that is not visible from ground level. Your plumber or drainlayer will be able to advise you on inspecting and repairing a lateral fault.

## What difference will repairing private property faults make?

He aha ngā painga whānui o te whakatika i ngā hapa waipara i ō tātou kāinga?

Stopping rainwater from getting into the wastewater network will save money for all of us and benefit our environment. Together we can make a big difference for the benefit of all of us!

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beyond great together

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