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**Watercare**  *in partnership with*  
An Auckland Council Organisation



NGĀTI WHĀTUA ŌRĀKEI

# Project Okahu

## Improving Water Quality In Okahu Bay

We are writing to you about an emerging programme to improve water quality in Okahu Bay.

It has been known for some time that Okahu Bay experiences issues with poor water quality. With the bay increasingly a focal point for cultural /public events and recreation it is important that these issues are given serious attention.

As a local resident, we would like to make sure you are aware of the programme of work that is being undertaken to understand the issues and to investigate potential solutions. If you are concerned about the bay, and interested in its health, there are also ways you can help - some of them small, but all important.

### From the Okahu Bay Project Team at Auckland Council

Auckland Council's Healthy Waters, Watercare Services Limited, and Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

## The combined wastewater and stormwater network

One of the issues facing Okahu Bay is aging infrastructure known as a combined wastewater network. This network carries both wastewater and stormwater in the same pipes, and dates back to the early twentieth century. Most of the time, it effectively carries wastewater away to the treatment plant, but after heavy rain, it can overflow and release stormwater (including diluted wastewater) into the bay.

We are seeking solutions to help reduce the frequency of these overflows, and to manage and plan for them when they do occur. Through summer, the bay is monitored by Auckland Council's Safeswim programme.

## Public and private drainage inspections

To improve the water quality in Okahu Bay and to ensure it is safe for swimming it's important to understand the performance of the existing public and private drainage systems. As part of Auckland Council's Healthy Waters Department Intern programme, we will be carrying out private drainage inspections between December 2017 and March 2018. These inspections will allow classification of your property as combined or separated and will also confirm if there are any obvious faults with your private drainage.

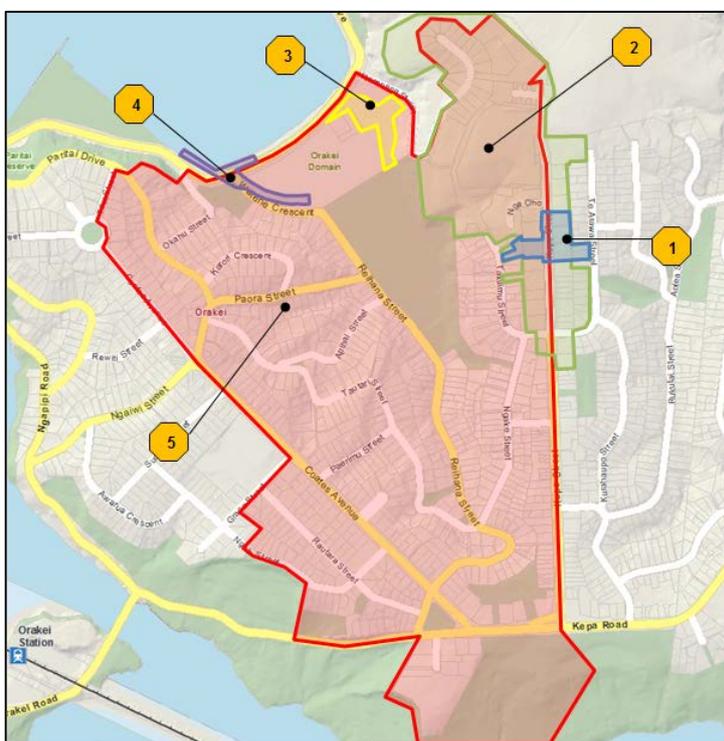
Smoke, CCTV camera inspections and dye testing may also be carried out at a later date to determine if there are any cracked or faulty pipes/joints or cross connections; testing will also be undertaken on the public drainage system.

Council's design consultant will also be working in the area over the next few months doing surveying, geotechnical investigations and carrying out private drainage inspections.

If we intend to visit your property a flyer will be delivered prior. There will be no need for you to be home unless you have a dog, or a locked gate, or wish to be present during the inspection.

# Okahu Bay projects

Map #	Description	Desired Outcomes
1	Stormwater servicing of Takitimu Street and Kupe Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upgrading and extension of the stormwater network servicing the Special Housing Area (SHA), including providing stormwater connections</li> </ul>
2	Ōrākei Papakāinga Master Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sustainable long-term housing redevelopment including water sensitive design approach to stormwater management</li> </ul>
3	Potential partial daylighting through Ōrākei Domain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Flood mitigation for the Ōrākei Urupā</li> <li>○ Enhancement of local habitat and ecology</li> <li>○ Provision of cultural resources</li> <li>○ Improve water quality to Okahu Bay</li> </ul>
4	Stormwater renewal at Watene Crescent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Flood mitigation of Watene Crescent</li> <li>○ Renewal of existing stormwater network</li> <li>○ Safety issue outfall in the beach area</li> </ul>
5	Stormwater separation works throughout Okahu Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve quality of the water discharging to Okahu Bay</li> <li>○ Reduce wastewater overflows to the stormwater network to an acceptable level of service between 2-7 spills per annum</li> </ul>



## How can I keep the system flowing?

These simple actions can help reduce the risk of overflows:

- Never pour fat down drains.
- Only flush human waste and toilet paper down your toilet. Other items, including ‘flushable’ baby wipes contributors to blockages and overflows.
- In separated areas ensure downpipes are connected to the stormwater system and not the wastewater

## How can I find out more?

You are welcome to sign up at [HWD@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:HWD@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) to receive further email updates on the project

To find out more about Safeswim water quality monitoring, please see [www.safeswim.org.nz](http://www.safeswim.org.nz)

Understand wastewater overflows: [www.watercare.co.nz](http://www.watercare.co.nz) and search ‘wastewater overflows’