

Sewage contamination in the streams flowing into Waitaramoa/Hobson Bay and Ōrākei Basin

What's the issue?

Sewage (wastewater) is contaminating most of the streams flowing into Waitaramoa/Hobson Bay and Ōrākei Basin in all weather.

What are Auckland Council and Watercare doing about this?

- Auckland Council and Watercare are working to identify and fix the most urgent problems.
- Public health warning signs have been placed where it is not safe for swimming, other water activities or collection of and eating of kaimoana.
- Significant investment is being made to address the long-term problems but it will take over a decade to make the major improvements needed.

What do you need to know to keep safe?

- Te Tinana/Wilsons Beach will be added to Safeswim on 1 December 2021. We recommend only swimming at Safeswim sites and only when it is safe to do so. Check before you swim at www.safeswim.org.nz.
- Treat the streams flowing into Waitaramoa/Hobson Bay and Ōrākei Basin as potentially contaminated by sewage (wastewater) at all times. This includes Newmarket Stream, Hapua Stream, Portland Road Stream, Waiata Stream and Ōrākei Creek. The water quality in Pourewa Creek is good in dry weather but potentially poor within 48 hours of any rain.
- Do not play in or around the affected streams. It is recommended you never swim in any urban stream. If you touch the water in the affected streams, it is strongly recommended that you sanitise your hands and anything that has come into contact with the water straight away.
- Keep children and dogs out of the streams, stormwater pipe outlets and channels at all times.
- Food gathering/kaimoana is not recommended near any urban location in Auckland due to various urban contaminants. Avoid collecting and eating shellfish or other seafood from Waitaramoa/Hobson Bay and Ōrākei Basin.
- Kayaking and other on-water activities within Waitaramoa/Hobson Bay are generally low-risk during dry weather but should be avoided within 48 hours of rainfall. Please take more caution near where streams enter the bay, including the kayak steps at Shore Road.
- We advise that you don't use Ōrākei Basin within 48 hours of rainfall.

How can you help?

- You can help by keeping yourself safe, letting others know and reporting any sewage or other pollution you see or smell to the pollution hotline on 09 377 3107.
- Please observe all warning signs and contact Auckland Council Environmental Health on 09 301 0101 if signs have been damaged or removed.

Find out more:

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/safenetworks



Newmarket/Hobson Bay dry weather* sampling progress November 2021

This map represents data collected during 2020 and 2021. It represents the likely public health risk, with respect to NZ contact recreation guidelines, across Hobson Bay/Waitaramoa as at 12 November 2021 and is subject to change as investigations and corrective actions progress. This map has been prepared by Auckland Council Healthy Waters for the purpose of community engagement addressing this current public health risk. For further up to date information about where to swim, check safeswim.org.nz.

*Less than 0.5mm of rain in last 48 hours





Newmarket/Hobson Bay wet weather sampling progress November 2021

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