

# Cleaning Gracefield's stormwater

## *Let's keep Waiwhetu Stream pristine!*

The Waiwhetu Stream is now a healthy ecosystem and a major asset to our city – and the Hutt City Council is asking Gracefield businesses to lead the way in helping keep it pristine.

After years of pollution from industrial waste discharges, including through the stormwater network, the stream was decontaminated in 2012.

However, the task isn't over. Gracefield's stormwater discharges still contain pollutants at levels that are too high. Heavy metals such as zinc, copper and lead, hydrocarbons from diesel and oil, and some faecal contamination continue to put the stream's health at risk.

So we're asking for your help...

### **Know your pipes!**

Stormwater and wastewater networks are separate systems. It's critical for the health of our waterways that wastewater is kept out of the stormwater system.

Over time, both public and private sewer pipes develop leaks through subsidence, age, earthquakes or tree roots. Any resulting leakage usually makes its way into the stormwater system – which includes streams and beaches. Cross-connections – the inadvertent connection of wastewater pipes to the stormwater network (and vice versa) – are a common cause of faecal contamination.

Property owners are responsible for ensuring pipes from their building are functioning properly and are connected to the right public network. Do you know how the drainage system on your property works?

### **Vehicle and machinery washing**

Equipment or vehicle washing should be done on either an existing approved wash-pad, or on an installed wash-pad with grit and oil traps connected to the sewer system. There are 14 wash-pads in Gracefield and a commercial independent wash facility (Truckwash Seaview) on Seaview Road.

### **Got sumps? Keep them clean!**

Sumps – stormwater drain entry points – on private property are the responsibility of the property owner. Sumps trap contaminants, especially heavy metals, so regular cleaning is important.

Cleaning these out regularly is a major contribution to reducing contamination – and also reduces the chance of flooding.



### **What you can do to help**

**Check your pipes – especially if telltale signs of a leak are showing**

**Paint your roof. If re-roofing, consider a system that minimises zinc run-off.**

**Keep all vehicle and equipment washing water away from stormwater sumps.**

**Have sumps on your property cleaned regularly**

***The Hutt City Council Trade Waste team is happy to help with your efforts to reduce stormwater contamination and help keep the Waiwhetu clean.***

***Call them any time on 570 6819***