

8. CORSAIR BAY SEWER

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Jane Parfitt, DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	City Water and Waste Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to respond to the Board's request for staff to report on water quality problems at Corsair Bay, specifically including information in respect of the integrity of the area sewerage.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Ministry for the Environment Recreational Water Quality Guidelines for grading of water at Corsair Bay Beach in Summer 2005 was lowered from previous year from fair to poor.
3. Limited sampling suggests that the stormwater system is the main source of pollution contributing to the lower grading. While there are suggestions that the sewer system may be responsible, this seems unlikely as the sewer is less than five years old. Other sources of possible contamination include pumped in-ground sewage tanks being flooded in wet weather and overflowing into the stormwater system.
4. At the next significant wet weather event an attempt will be made to observe flows and levels in manholes on the sewer system through Corsair Bay to establish if there are any flow restrictions or potential overflow locations. The sewer main that follows the roadway, while new, is reasonably flat in grade and could be prone to obstruction and gorging. Each house in the bay will be inspected to determine if there are any above ground faults which could contribute to poor quality storm water.

BACKGROUND CORSAIR BAY SEWER

5. This request will have been prompted by results of Environment Canterbury's annual summer time sampling of bathing beaches, the results of which led to a lowered grading in 2005 for the beach at Corsair Bay (from fair to poor). These gradings are in terms of the Ministry for the Environment Recreational Water Quality Guidelines for bathing water.
6. Some limited further sampling and analysis during wet weather events suggests that the storm water system in the area is the possible main source of pollution contributing to the lower grading.
7. It has been suggested that the sewer system in the area is responsible for the poor quality storm water. While this is possible, there is no obvious signs of deterioration or defects in the sewer system that would cause the poor storm water quality. The main sewer through the bay is very new – less than five years old. In previous years there had been failures of the pumps at the public toilets in the park area in the Bay but these pumps were replaced two years ago. The toilet facilities are budgeted to be replaced in the current financial year.
8. Other possibilities of potential sewage contamination are being investigated. These possibilities include reviewing the possibility of pumped in-ground sewage tanks being flooded in wet weather and spilling over into the storm water system.

ACTION

9. At the next significant wet weather event an attempt will be made to observe flows and levels in manholes on the sewer system through Corsair Bay to establish if there are any flow restrictions or potential overflow locations. The sewer main that follows the roadway, while new, is reasonably flat in grade and could be prone to obstruction and gorging. Each house in the Bay will be inspected to determine if there are any above ground faults which could contribute to poor quality storm water.
10. When this investigation is completed a further report will be made to the Community Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Board receive this information.