

# **Paremata Residents Association**

## **Presentation to Hearing Stream 1 for the PDP**

### **Submission 190.6, Subject Ref MRZ.02**

**Request the Council to Decline any new multi-unit building applications in the Mana area until the sewer main is replaced and upgraded.**

To understand why the Paremata Residents Association has made this statement, you need an explanation of the current situation.

1. The sewer main through Mana Esplanade is old, in poor condition and undersized for its wastewater load, and has been for years. This is well known by PCC and was confirmed by Wellington Water in the zone change application for Plimmerton Farm in 2019.
2. This sewer main takes wastewater from Pukerua Bay, Plimmerton, Camborne and Mana. There is no capacity for future growth. South of the Paremata Bridge the sewer main takes wastewater from Whitby, Paremata, Papakowhai and Aotea, which can restrict the flow from Mana. This main was installed in the 1950/60's for the population anticipated at the time but is now required to cope with the housing expansion that has occurred over the last 50 years.
3. It is possible that the situation has been compounded by two other factors:
  - the Esplanade network is believed to be close to (or below) high tide level
  - many years of very heavy vehicle transport is likely to have damaged the sewer pipes crossing under the road and under sections of the southbound kerbside lane after the footpath width was reduced to expand the Esplanade to 4 lanes in 2005.
4. For many years now, a high inflow and infiltration of stormwater, groundwater and possibly seawater into the wastewater network during heavy rain events. High flows from hill suburbs and restrictions to the South results in surcharging manholes on the Esplanade with wastewater flowing down the southbound kerbside lane and stormwater drainage into the Pauatahanui Inlet at Dolly Varden recreational beach. Toilet paper is strewn over the footpath and residential toilets in the area (and at Paremata School) have overflowed.

**Refer attached photos of surcharging manhole on Mana Esplanade**

5. The Residents Association is concerned that these discharges may have contributed to the increase in toxic algae in the inlet. It is surprising that GWRC (to our knowledge) has not yet issued an infringement notice on PCC for these discharges.
6. Wellington Water's most recent response to complaints has been to bolt down manhole lids, but the wastewater still discharges around manholes and emerges through the footpath and kerb.
7. The Paremata Residents Association has been raising the issue of sewage discharges in heavy rain since 2010. The 2013/14 Annual Plan contained provision to activate an existing cross harbour sewer pipe at Paremata to relieve pressure on the system in Mana. Nothing happened. We were informed that a storage tank at Dolly Varden to increase system capacity would be accelerated. Again nothing has happened to date.
8. PCC's 2021/51 LTP programme for capital expenditure on 3 Waters showed the Mana Esplanade sewer programmed for replacement starting 2023. Later than we would prefer but there is logic in delaying until after TGM opens and traffic numbers decrease.
9. However, information obtained from Wellington Water in June 2021 indicates that replacement will not be completed until 2031/32. That's another 10 years before we will see a solution to the current highly unsatisfactory situation. Based on performance to date, the Association has little confidence that the programmed date will be achieved.
10. The Paremata Residents Association maintains that until this sewer is replaced and upgraded it is not sensible or acceptable to allow further residential intensification in the area and exacerbate these discharges. We request the PDP Hearings Panel to support this restriction.



**Surcharging Manhole on Mana Esplanade in Heavy Rain**



**Toilet Paper from Manhole on Mana Esplanade after Heavy Rain**