

# ŌRĀKEI MATTERS



Ōkahu Bay

## Keep local waterways clean

**Recently, one of our maintenance crews attended a call-out near Ōrākei Domain. They found wastewater overflowing into Ōkahu Bay. Our crew worked quickly to find out what the problem was.**

They discovered the public wastewater pipe was blocked with fat and rubbish, causing wastewater to spill into a nearby stormwater pipe and then out into the bay.

We call such instances ‘dry weather’ overflows. They occur when local residents and businesses pour fat down the sink and flush rubbish such as rags down the toilet. These items don’t break down in water, instead, they form ‘fatbergs’ that block pipes and cause overflows.

The wastewater overflow triggered a black flag on the Safeswim website. While it was still safe for people to play and picnic on the beach, the risk of getting sick from swimming in shallow water was higher than normal due to a higher concentration of faecal matter.

As a seashore community, it’s our responsibility to practice kaitiakitanga (guardianship) for all the marine life in Ōkahu Bay and the greater Hauraki Gulf. Together, we can improve the water quality of Auckland’s streams and beaches. Turn the page to find out how you can help reduce local overflows.

## Did you know?

Wastewater from your property travels to the Māngere Wastewater Treatment Plant to be treated. There it goes through a process to ensure it can be safely released into the Manukau Harbour on the outgoing tide.

Wind back the clock one hundred years and the situation wasn’t so good. Wastewater from more than 300,000 people was collected, screened, and then released into the Waitematā Harbour through a long pipe – polluting the shores and waters around Ōrākei.

We’ve come a long way since then, but there’s still room for improvement.

We’re continuing to work with Auckland Council and Ngāti Whātua to improve the health of our local waters through the Ōkahu Bay stormwater network separation project. The project separates stormwater from wastewater pipes, which directly improves the water quality in Ōkahu Bay, and the wider Hauraki Gulf.

Teach your tamariki about how wastewater is treated by scanning the QR code below.



# Help to reduce local overflows

Every time you wash your dishes or flush your toilet, the dirty water drains into your private plumbing and out into the public network.

Please be careful about what you pour down your sink or flush down the toilet because fat and rubbish can cause blockages. These can lead to overflows that affect our waterways and beaches.

## Toilet



**Flush away pee, poo and toilet paper**



**Don't flush:**

- wet-wipes
- sanitary products
- nappies
- rags
- paper towels

Stormwater downpipe

## Stormwater drains

These are owned and maintained by Auckland Council.

Private wastewater pipes

Private stormwater pipes

Gully trap

Manhole

Stormwater drains

Watercare wastewater pipe

Auckland Council stormwater pipe

## Kitchen sink



**Let cooking oils and fats cool, then scrape the fat into the bin.**



**Don't pour hot cooking oils and fats down the sink. Once cool, the fats harden and create blockages in the wastewater pipe.**

## Manholes



**Give us a call**

If you come across an overflow from a manhole, please phone us on (09) 442 2222. We're available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Contact us** If you would like to provide your feedback on Ōrākei Matters, please email [communications@water.co.nz](mailto:communications@water.co.nz).