

Join Us For A Korero

We have two exciting and informative public meetings coming up



Join us for our [public meetings in July and August](#). Hear from expert speakers, engage in korero and connect with your community.

20th of July- Mātauranga and Matariki-

Matariki is a special time of year, a time to think of the past, be thankful in the present and look to the future; It is an acknowledgment of the interconnectedness of everything.

This Matariki celebrate with us as we explore how a better understanding of a combination of mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) and western science can change the world for the better. Dion Pou will share from his experience in restoration ecology, explaining how systemic disconnection has left us with a broken relationship with nature; and how we can broaden our thinking to better understand our place, working collaboratively with each other and with nature.

17th August- Urban Flooding-

Auckland has had a horror year for flooding and many people are asking what can be done? We saw neglected and covered streams turn into raging torrents with nowhere for the water to go but onto streets and into buildings.

Is a change of approach needed? Is the answer building bigger pipes? Dr Matthew Bradbury, associate professor of Architecture and Author of "Water City, Practical Strategies for Climate Change" shares his research and explores how we can help our city be more resilient to future rainfall events.

[Discover More](#)

Any upgrades on the horizon?

Watercare has published a list of planned upgrades to infrastructure for the next 6 years and it's a bit of a mixed bag for Te wai o Pareira.

On the positive side

The Celsmere Lane, Engineered Overflow point, in Te Atatu Peninsula, has made the list of sites to be upgraded. We have been advocating for this since 2018 so we are thrilled to see it on Watercare's formal list of priority projects.

Our data shows that the wastewater overflows that occur at Celsmere Lane EOP are a significant contributor to the overflows into Te Wai o Pareira (over 11% of the total overflow durations we have recorded since July 2022).

Also, our wet wipe filter is to be installed at the manhole in Taipari Strand. In the past, we have been very concerned by the sheer volume of wet wipes that are left in the mangroves after the overflows. They do not decompose and will remain there possibly for many years. In response to our concerns Watercare did send a crew to remove as many as they could, but the site is a difficult one to walk in due to the soft silt. So, at our last meeting, Watercare advised us that a filter is to be installed on the manhole, which will trap wet wipes. We are certainly pleased with that, but for each of us, [please don't flush wet wipes down the toilet](#).

And the negative..

The most prolific overflow point at Taipari Strand does NOT even appear on the list! The Taipari Strand overflow point (Manhole 10) is responsible for the largest overflows by volume and frequency that we are aware of (and we believe one of the most prolific in the wider Tamaki Makaurau region). It is really disappointing to us that for the last 5 years this highly active overflow point has not been reported by Watercare and is therefore 'invisible' as far as priority action is concerned. We have been advocating for the sewage discharged by Manhole 10 to be formally recorded by Watercare and at our last meeting with Watercare, we were assured that it would be recorded in future Annual Performance Review reports. This is important, as this document is used to set Watercare project priorities.

You may be wondering why the data from Manhole 10 is not being reported despite the huge volume of sewage that flows from it each time there is heavy rain? This is due to the way it is reported by Watercare. Watercare reports Type 1 (Pump Station overflows and Type 2 (Engineered Overflow Point overflows). Type 3 overflows are not as clear cut; Type 3 overflows arise in both the connection network (to properties) and to the transmission network (to treatment plants).

Type 3 connection overflows e.g. those arising from blocked domestic drains, are reported to Auckland Council. But Type 3 overflows from the transmission network, such as those at MH10, are managed separately from the connection network. We understand Watercare do not report these to Auckland Council as they state that they are rare and that overflow data is not reliable.

What Now?

So with this loophole the biggest pollution point in Te Wai o Pareira is able to keep spilling sewage unchecked.

However, since Rivercare Group started regularly reporting these overflows to Watercare in 2019, Watercare has responded by sending a clean up crew to the site after any major rain event. In addition, an automated sensor has now been installed in the network to alert Watercare automatically to when it is likely to overflow.

However, as we know the status of Watercare's plans to remediate the cause of these overflows includes:

1. Reducing the volume of wastewater inbound to Taipari Strand from Hobsonville Point in 2026, which should reduce the frequency of overflows, but not eliminate it.
2. Increasing a pump throughput volume downstream when other parts of the network capacity increases in 2026. Will definitely help.
3. Diverting all of the wastewater flows from west Auckland to the Rosedale Treatment plant in around 2040.

Rivercare Group Te Wai o Pareira will continue to advocate for faster and more effective action to address these overflows and continue to monitor the status of the awa to see exactly what effect these changes practically make. Remember that members of the public can report sewage overflows too on Watercare's website.

Planting Day

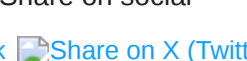
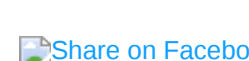
Dust your gumboots off for a planting day at Tawa Esplanade, August 6th, 10am-1pm

Express your interest to lkuka@rivercaregroup.org

[See how far Tawa has come](#)

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