

19 September 2022

OIA IRO-284

Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Official information request on Sewage at Thompson Grove.

I write regarding your official information request dated Friday 19 August 2022, on wastewater at Thompson Grove. Your request was transferred to us by Porirua City Council on Friday 19 August 2022.

We have considered your request in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act and determined that we are able to grant your request in full.

Please see attached in our email response to you the 'Thompson Grove Wastewater Spillage Investigation Update.'

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Team Lead, Customer Hub
Wellington Water Ltd

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Our water, our future.

MEMO

TO [REDACTED]
COPIED TO [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
FROM [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
DATE 15 September 2022
SUBJECT: THOMPSON GROVE WASTEWATER OVERFLOWS UPDATE

a) Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the wastewater overflow mitigations in Thompson Grove. This includes a description of the problem, works completed to date on this issue, observed residual issues, and the next steps to resolve the wastewater overflows.

b) Problem

Thompson Grove is in the Eastern Porirua area. The Eastern Porirua wastewater network drains from Canons Creek and Ranui down to Bothamley Park which includes about 17km of pipelines.

Over the years customers from Thompson Grove have observed wastewater spills on the road from the wastewater pipeline. Those events usually occur during rain events.

A significant issue at this location is that the upstream pipeline above No.25 Thompson Grove, through Thompson Gully, is a larger pipe (300mm diameter) than downstream (225mm diameter). This will cause a capacity bottleneck until the pipe downstream of No.25 is upgraded to a larger diameter.

Further, the condition of the pipe in Thompson Grove is uncertain. Historic CCTV inspection found cracks inside this wastewater pipeline which may reduce the capacity if the cracks result in groundwater inflow or in obstructions.

c) Completed Works

The 300mm diameter pipeline through Thompson Gully was relined in 2017/18.

Given the pipe size bottleneck in Thompson Grove the short-term priority has been to reduce wastewater spills onto the road in Thompson Grove in wet weather events until such time as the pipe can be upgraded. In February 2022 WWL installed a wastewater connection to the stormwater system outside No.2 Thompson Grove so that when the wastewater pipes are full the excess flow has a direct, rather than indirect, path into the stormwater system, reducing the likelihood of a wastewater spill on to the road and into property.

After initial installation, there were customer complaints about sewage odour coming from the street, so an adjustment was made to install 90 degrees bend so that the foul air will be better retained inside the chamber.



Figure 1 Constructed overflow installed in Thompson Grove

d) Residual Issues

Since the works were completed, it is believed that the Thompson Grove constructed overflow has been successful in containing overflows onto the street in some rainfall events. Despite this, on the 19 August 2022 several manholes upstream of the recently constructed overflow were observed to be overflowing as shown Figure 2. Field observations were that the stormwater sumps were also running full at the time limiting capacity to accept wastewater. Hydrological analysis calculated that the rainfall size was a 1.5-year rainfall return period event. Although not ideal, this event is greater than Wellington Water's target level of service which is to have no more than one wet weather overflow per annum at non-constructed overflow locations e.g., manholes, on a long-term average basis.



Figure 2: Uncontrolled overflow observed on 19th August 2022.

Figure 3 shows a cross-section of the pipe and the locations of the observed spills compared to the location and elevation of the constructed overflow.

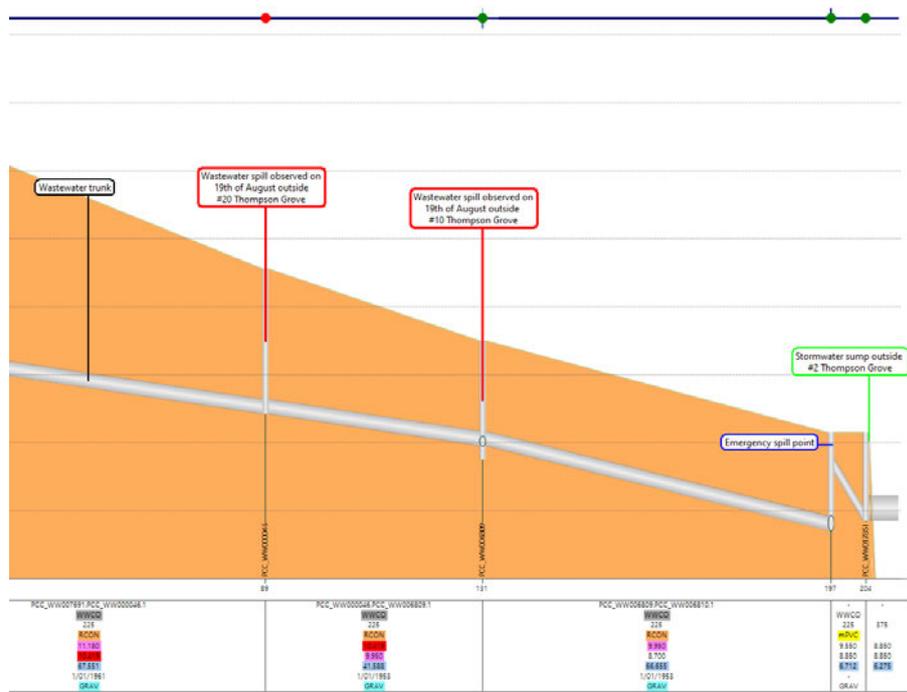


Figure 3 – Long section view wastewater trunk

e) Next Actions

The next actions are described below:

- a. **On-going Observation/Monitoring.** Observation and reporting by maintenance crews and the public will be used to determine if the constructed overflow has reduced the frequency of overflows on to Thompson Grove to some extent.
- b. **CCTV Inspections:** A camera will be inserted inside the pipelines to gather more information on the internal condition. This will help to identify if there is any groundwater infiltration, pipe blockages or damage that is contributing to the overflows that may be able to be repaired by maintenance. Refer Figure 4.

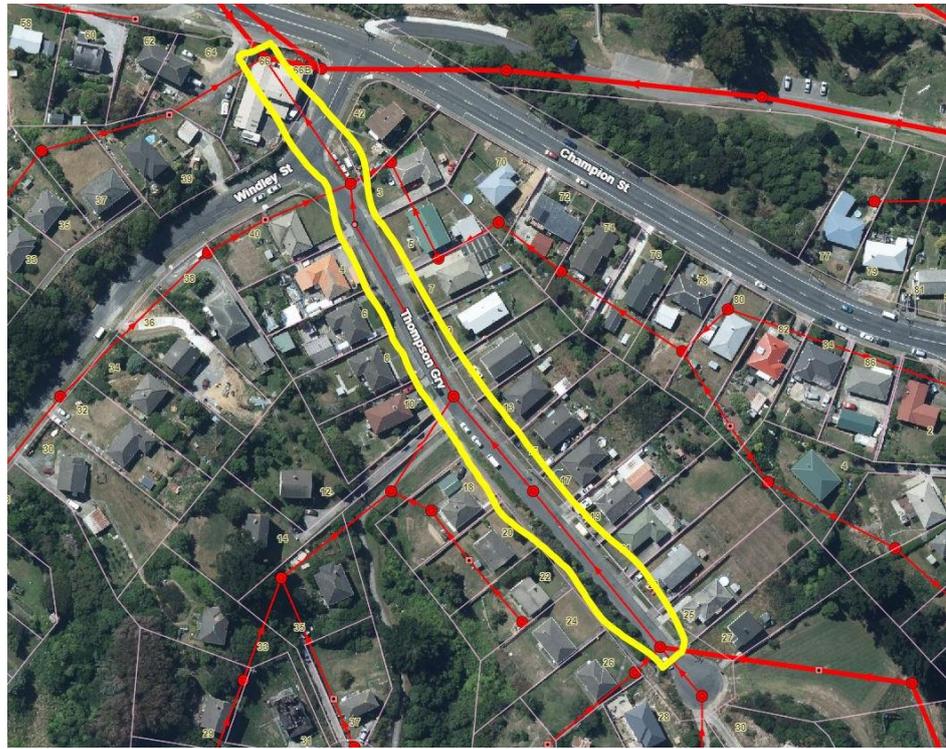


Figure 4 Planned pipelines inspection

- c. **Renewal planning.** Due to the bottleneck in the pipe capacity, Thompson Grove has been identified as requiring a capacity upgrade to a 300mm diameter pipe. This is proposed to be completed as part of Eastern Porirua redevelopment work. This works has been approved by PCC and will be undertaken in conjunction with the Bothamley Park trunk sewer upgrade being undertaken by the Te Aranga Alliance and will be subject to their project timing.