

6 Stormwater

Stormwater is rain which has run off hard, “impervious” surfaces like roads, roofs, car parks and surface water. Traditionally stormwater has been piped away from these hard surfaces and discharged into the nearest waterway (e.g. stream, beach, harbour, wetland). Stormwater is not usually treated in any way.

Council provides a stormwater system that aims to protect property and public health by safely and efficiently collecting, transporting, and disposing of stormwater. This includes managing streams, watercourses and a stormwater pipe system. The latter totals some 683 km of pipes and tunnels.

The system has evolved with the development of the city and ranges from open channels to pipes less than 200 millimeters in diameter.

6.1 Communities

The communities for the stormwater assessment have been divided into the reticulated area of the city and the non-reticulated communities of Makara, Ohariu, Horokiwi and South Karori. The reticulated area of the city can be further broken down into 42 stormwater catchments.

6.2 Standards

Council provisions for stormwater quality and quantity come from the following documents;

- Ministry for the Environment Marine Recreational Water Guidelines
- GWRC Freshwater Plan
- GWRC Coastal Waters Plan
- Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Building Act 1991
- District Plan
- Local Government Act 2002