

Proposed Hamilton Stormwater Bylaw

Hamilton City Council is considering introducing a new bylaw that will set out everyone's responsibilities around stormwater management. The proposed bylaw aims to protect Hamilton's waterways by ensuring the stormwater system is maintained and that water entering the system is clean and free of contaminants.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater that runs off roads, roofs, footpaths and carparks. This water flows into our stormwater system which drains into the Waikato River.

Why are we doing this?

The Council manages over 700 km of pipe that carries stormwater from public and private properties into the Waikato River. We need to protect the system from damage and ensure it is managed well so that the environment and public health is not put at risk.



Why is stormwater management important?

Most New Zealand cities discharge their stormwater into the sea but Hamilton's stormwater flows directly into the Waikato River, the same place we get our drinking water from. Because of this, we need to take extra care that our stormwater is clean and free of contaminants like oil, fat and paint. If contaminants enter the river through the stormwater system they can lower the quality of our water and harm our river and fish.

How will a bylaw help us manage stormwater?

The proposed bylaw will help us manage the stormwater system by setting out what can and can't enter the system. It will also clarify everyone's responsibilities in managing the stormwater system and provide guidance to high risk facilities, such as petrol stations, on how they can manage the risk of contaminating the stormwater system.

What issues will the bylaw address?

By providing a clear set of guidelines for stormwater management, the proposed bylaw will address these issues:

- Contaminated stormwater getting into the Council's network causing a risk to public health and limiting recreational use of the river.
- People illegally connecting the waste water system to the stormwater system or vice versa, causing wastewater to contaminate the stormwater system.
- Private stormwater management devices not being properly maintained, causing flooding over public or neighbouring private property, erosion effects and costly upgrades.
- Physical damage to the network leading to flooding, erosion and sedimentation of waterways.
- Vegetation or large items blocking the network reducing the systems capacity.
- The Council being unable to access sites to ensure stormwater is being managed effectively.

Education programme

Hamilton City Council is committed to providing organisations and individuals with the guidance and tools they need to manage stormwater effectively. The proposed bylaw will support a comprehensive education programme that will be in place soon.

Have your say

The Council would like to know what you think about the proposed Stormwater Bylaw. Visit hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay to read the draft bylaw and give your views online.

Feedback forms are also available from all Hamilton City Council libraries, and from the Ground Floor reception of the Council's Municipal Building in Garden Place. For any queries please ring 07 838 6699.

Please send completed forms to Hamilton City Council, Strategy and Research Unit, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton 3240.

For more information and to give us your thoughts and views visit
Hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay



Submissions close 4pm
1 April 2015.