

Confirmed Action Items for the Stormwater Action Plan

REGULATORY

Issue	Action	By Who
GWRC does not provide sufficiently clear direction to Territorial Authorities on stormwater management.	Provide improved direction via this Stormwater Action Plan and the RPS review.	GWRC
Some discharges from TA stormwater networks have adverse effects on receiving waters that are more than minor and so breach permitted activity rules.	Establish a framework for consenting stormwater discharges that breach permitted activity rules.	GWRC
TAs do not have authority under the Resource Management Act 1991 to take enforcement action for illegal discharges into their stormwater networks.	Conduct a pilot delegation of enforcement powers for discharges into stormwater drains.	GWRC, HCC
The Urban Design Protocol does not specifically refer to stormwater management or low impact urban design.	Liaise with MfE to encourage inclusion of Low Impact Urban Design solutions for stormwater.	GWRC
GWRC continues to issue consents for piping small & ephemeral streams.	Develop information resources to assist consents officers assessing applications to pipe small streams.	GWRC
There is no established procedure or agreement for confirming the responsibility for watercourse management in the Wairarapa. This results in landowners, developers and authorities having to seek legal opinions.	Work with flood protection to develop a protocol for determining responsibility for stormwater maintenance works.	GWRC, MDC

INVESTIGATIONS

Issue	Action	By Who
Kingett & Mitchell draft reports on aquatic ecology & urban stream management are not currently available via the GWRC web site	Make this document available via the GWRC web site.	GWRC
There may be scope to refine GWRC's current freshwater and coastal monitoring programmes to better detect and quantify stormwater effects & assess long term trends.	Review monitoring programmes to ensure sampling/monitoring strategies can identify and characterise s/w discharge effects.	GWRC
NIWA's High Intensity Rainfall Design System (HIRDS) estimates design rainfall for a given location. Its accuracy for use in the Wellington region has not been evaluated.	Evaluate the suitability of the updated HIRDS database, for use in developing design storm events for the Wellington region	GWRC

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Data obtained from GWRC's monitoring & research programmes have not been evaluated sufficiently to determine potential stormwater issues and information gaps.	Consolidate available environmental data characterising stormwater quality and its effects, & use it to assess future monitoring/research needs.	GWRC
Some streams may benefit more than others from stormwater management initiatives. An understanding of this issue will enable better targeting of stormwater projects.	Determine which urban streams may benefit from mitigation and protection from future development.	GWRC
Many small streams have been lost to development in recent years, and urban growth threatens remaining small streams.	Plot the trend for small stream loss in the last 50 years, and identify future development pressures.	GWRC
There is uncertainty about how climate change might affect stormwater design approaches across the region	Investigate whether climate change can be built into a regionally consistent design approach.	GWRC, TAs
We do not currently use agreed criteria for evaluating stream quality, which can be used as a basis for impact assessment and planning/monitoring trends.	Establish criteria for stream quality evaluation in the region (e.g. MCI) to quantify impacts and evaluate restoration effectiveness.	GWRC
A better understanding of the type & distribution of industrial/commercial sites in the region will enable a better understanding of their impacts on stormwater quality	Survey of industrial and commercial sites in the region and characterise its environmental risk profile.	GWRC

OPERATIONS

Issue	Action	By Who
Several TAs have assessed stormwater treatment devices, but there is insufficient sharing of experiences and information.	Hold an operators workshop to demonstrate case studies and share information on cost-effectiveness of treatment devices.	GWRC, TAs

EDUCATION

Issue	Action	By Who
The Small Earthworks guideline is distributed throughout the region, but the uptake of its principles by developers/contractors is slow.	Hold developer/contractor workshops to encourage conformance with the guideline.	GWRC, TAs
The GWRC web site has many stormwater references, but does not relate them well.	Develop a stormwater web page, with links to relevant areas.	GWRC
There has not been a stormwater article in Elements for some time.	Prepare an article for Elements about this SWAP.	GWRC
There is no web-based stormwater education resource available to councils in NZ (partial information available via ARC's 'Drain Rain Game')	Submit a Sustainable Management Fund application to develop an interactive, web-based Great Drain	GWRC, TAs

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and Biodiversity NZ's 'Up the Creek').	Game.	
TA & GWRC officers may benefit from short-term placements with each other, to improve awareness of stormwater management issues.	Encourage secondments and short-term placements.	GWRC, TAs
There is poor awareness & understanding of the value of small streams and the development pressures that threaten them	Participate in the development and delivery of workshops about small stream values and issues.	TAs
There is insufficient awareness or understanding of Low Impact Urban Design principles amongst TAs and developers	Deliver workshops to introduce Low Impact Urban Design principles to TAs and developers	GWRC, TAs