

Safe Networks - Tiaki Wai

Faecal contamination investigation process

Initiation

Investigation

Resolution

1

Safeswim Sampling

Safe Networks investigations are initiated when Safeswim sampling identifies a water quality issue for contact recreation in waterways and beaches.

High levels of faecal bacteria at a Safeswim site in dry weather indicate that there may be a problem with the local stormwater and wastewater networks in that catchment.

OR

1

Other Priority Sites

Safe Networks also supports other water quality improvement projects including asset renewals, stream restoration, Safe Septics programme and longer term wastewater and stormwater infrastructure upgrade planning projects.

2

Outlet Screening

Once an issue is identified by Safeswim or from other priority sampling, the Safe Networks team takes over. Every stormwater outlet (and stream if present) at the issue site will be sampled multiple times over a range of weather conditions to determine any faecal contamination issues and their source (dog, bird, human, livestock).

3

Network Screening

When the source of faecal contamination is confirmed to be from human sources (wastewater), sampling of each branch of the stormwater network upstream from the contaminated outlet or stream is used to isolate the issue to a smaller area.

4

Drainage Inspections

Our drainage contractors use visual inspections, dye testing, smoke testing and CCTV to find the exact location of the wastewater contamination issue. Common issues identified include damaged pipes or incorrectly plumbed toilets!

5

Issue Resolution

Public stormwater and wastewater issues are fixed by Healthy Waters and Watercare, respectively; while private drainage issues are the responsibility of the property owner to fix.

The Proactive Compliance team works with the property owner until they resolve the issue.

6

Post-resolution Sampling

Safe Networks repeats sampling after the wastewater contamination issues have been resolved. Multiple samples are taken to ensure that the mitigation measures taken were successful in eliminating the source of contamination.

