5.4 Issues

5.4.1 Reticulated

Level of Service

With regards to asset management planning there is an identified lack of systematic or co-ordinated action to consult with customers at grassroots level. This does not align with the transparency requirement of the LGA 2002. Council needs clearer definitions of community expectations on the levels of service provision and an increase in public consultation.

The Pipe System

Capacity and condition

Parts of the wastewater pipe system lack sufficient capacity to meet Council's current levels of service during wet weather. Lack of capacity of the wastewater asset is manifested by the flow of wastewater above ground or to the stormwater system in heavy rainfall. These overflows are caused by the wastewater system being too small for the actual flows or there being too great a quantity of flow caused by stormwater entering the system (inflow) or groundwater entering wastewater pipes (infiltration).

There is a direct correlation between the severity of any particular rain event and likely occurrence of wastewater overflows. Based on historical records and the use of computerised modelling it is possible to identify this correlation and manage the cause and effects of these overflows (see Wastewater AMP 2004).

Rising main repair

The infiltration of groundwater into the wastewater system through cracked and leaking pipes can also result in the deterioration of streams, the Harbour and South Coast water quality through wet weather overflows.

Pumping Stations

Occasionally, due to the ingress of inflow and infiltration (I/I), pumping stations are unable to cope with wet weather flows resulting in overflows to the stormwater system.

5.4.2 Non-reticulated

It is not possible at this time to accurately comment on the performance of the non-reticulated wastewater systems operating in the region. This is due to the lack of regulation on the ongoing operation of these systems.

5.5 The Present Situation

Reticulated

Wet Weather Flows

Council is addressing the above issues of wet weather overflows through:

- The Interceptor Upgrade Project, which investigates Wellington's trunk wastewater system with a view to implement solutions to overflow and capacity problems that currently exist
- The Drainage Rehabilitation Policy 1993 ensures the wastewater system is effectively maintained and upgraded as required
- The Lateral Policy 1993. This entails the Council taking responsibility for the structural maintenance of the private laterals located in road reserve. The intention of this policy is to reduce stormwater pollution caused by the wastewater leaking from private laterals
- The Sewage Pollution Elimination Project 1993 (SPE). The project is driven by 11 resource consents for the discharge of wastewater contaminated stormwater into the Harbour and South Coast. The project calls for considerable works to be carried out to reduce overflows, improve wet weather performance and upgrade the wastewater system.