

# Sewage contamination in the streams flowing into Waitaramoa/Hobson Bay and Ōrākei Basin November 2025



## What's the issue?

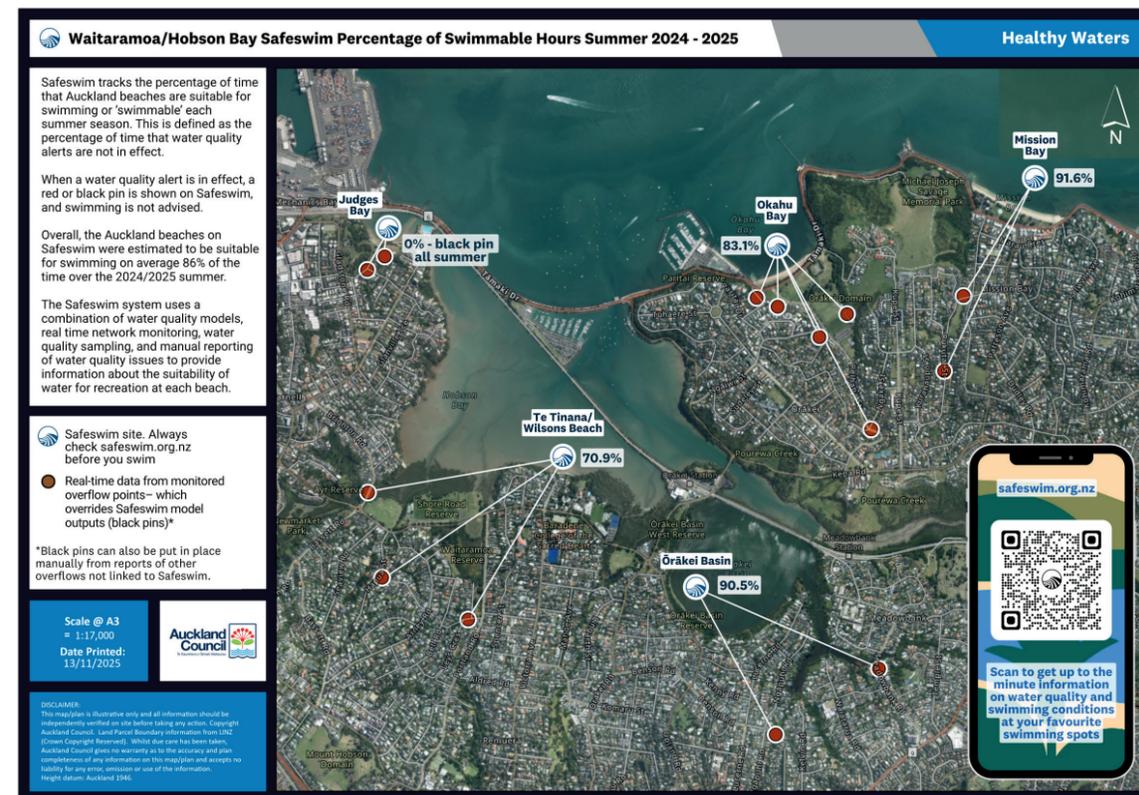
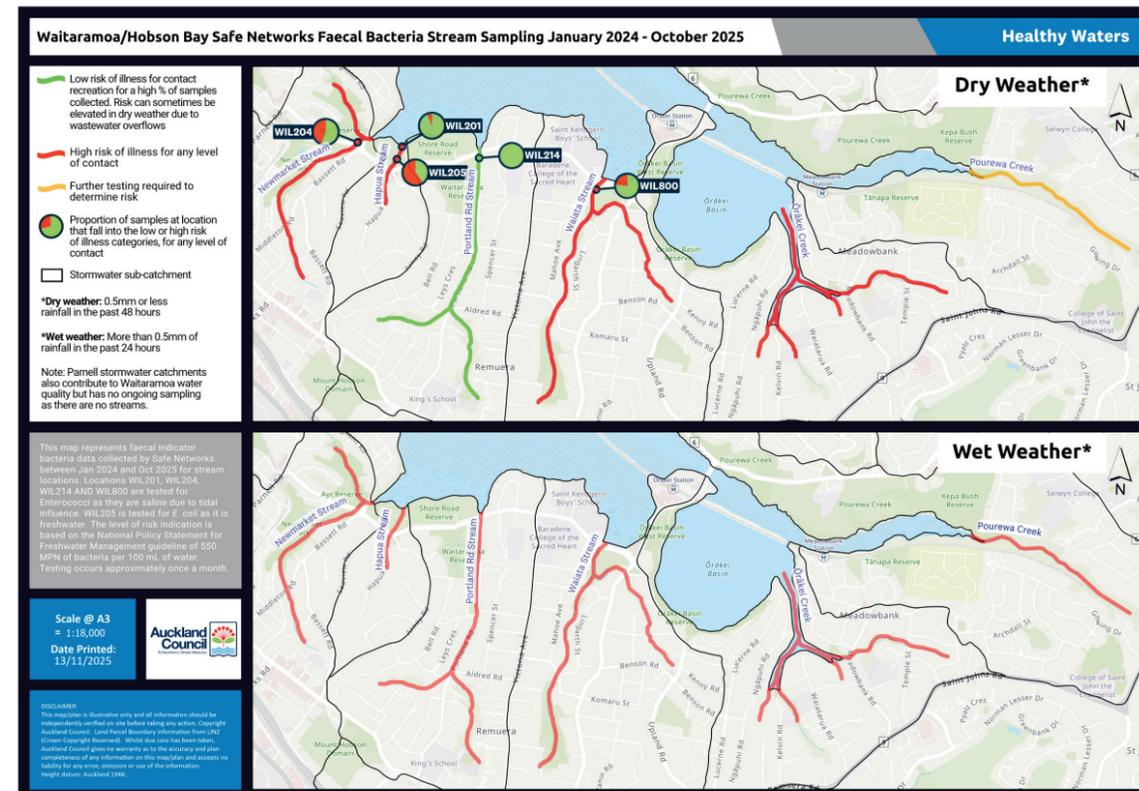
Sewage (wastewater) is contaminating most of the streams flowing into Waitaramoa/Hobson Bay and Ōrākei Basin in all weather.

## What are Auckland Council and Watercare doing about this?

- Auckland Council and Watercare are working to identify and fix the most urgent problems.
- Public health warning signs have been placed where it is not safe for swimming, other water activities or collection of and eating of kaimoana.
- Significant investment is being made to address the long-term problems but it will take over a decade to make the major improvements needed.

## What do you need to know to keep safe?

- Te Tinana/Wilsons Beach and Ōrākei Basin are on Safeswim. We recommend only swimming at Safeswim sites and only when it is safe to do so. Check before you swim at [www.safeswim.org.nz](http://www.safeswim.org.nz).
- Treat the streams flowing into Waitaramoa/Hobson Bay and Ōrākei Basin as potentially contaminated by sewage (wastewater) at all times. This includes Newmarket Stream, Hapua Stream, Portland Road Stream, Waiata Stream and Ōrākei Creek. Pourewa Creek requires further testing before contamination levels can be determined.
- Do not play in or around the affected streams. It is recommended you never swim in any urban stream. If you touch the water in the affected streams, it is strongly recommended that you sanitise your hands and anything that has come into contact with the water straight away.
- Keep children and dogs out of the streams, stormwater pipe outlets and channels at all times.
- Food gathering/kaimoana is not recommended near any urban location in Auckland due to various urban contaminants. Avoid collecting and eating shellfish or other seafood from Waitaramoa/Hobson Bay and Ōrākei Basin.
- Kayaking and other on-water activities within Waitaramoa/Hobson Bay are generally low-risk during dry weather but should be avoided within 48 hours of rainfall. Please take more caution near where streams enter the bay, including the kayak steps at Shore Road.



If a **wastewater overflow** is currently occurring call **Watercare** on **(09) 442 2222**  
 For other **significant pollution incidents** call Auckland Council's **Pollution Hotline** on **(09) 377 3107**  
 Contact Auckland Council **Environmental Health** on **(09) 301 0101** if **signs** have been **damaged or removed**  
 Find out more: [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/safenetworks](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/safenetworks)