

# **FRIENDS of Banks Peninsula Inc.**

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## **Christchurch City Council Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 submission – Friends of Banks Peninsula Inc.**

No matter what the Council decides regarding the Akaroa Wastewater Scheme, if the broken sewer pipe network is not repaired then raw sewage will continue to spill or seep into waterways and the harbour for years to come. When the Council revealed a large cost increase for the Scheme last July The Friends of Banks Peninsula was dismayed to find that this still did not include any budget for pipe repair and inflow and infiltration (I&I) reduction.

Heavy rainfall last winter caused two pipe sections to burst. One in central Akaroa resulted in raw sewage through private homes and businesses, and substantial costs to owners. The other at the Glen left raw sewage spilling into the harbour for several weeks while hundreds of meters of pipeline was being replaced. Contractors working on that repair stated that the pipes were so decayed it was hard to identify them, and difficult to find a section strong enough to connect the new pipe to. Beaches were again closed this summer after the storm in February – at a time when the town has many visitors and people wishing to swim and enjoy the beaches.

CCC staff have acknowledged that the pipes are likely to be leaking raw sewage throughout the year – if stormwater and groundwater can get into the pipes, then what is in the pipes can also get out.

We do not accept that CCC has done all it can to repair the pipes – issues on private properties may account for part of the I&I, but the data shows that groundwater infiltration continues long after a rain event, and therefore the CCC network is still largely responsible for the problem.

We think it is fiscally and environmentally irresponsible for the Council to build a new, and very expensive scheme, without incorporating long term climate resilience into the system. Repairing or replacing the pipe network to avoid stormwater incursion is the most important step in achieving greater resilience in the face of increasingly frequent and extreme storms.

### **We request that a specific budget line item be allocated for I&I repairs in Akaroa and Duvauchelle.**

We realise it will be costly to do this work properly. However, it must be done sooner or later and doing it now will substantially reduce costs and improve outcomes for other aspects of the new Scheme - smaller treatment plant and reduced wastewater storage requirements. Should a land-based disposal system proceed, then less land would be required for irrigation, with lower irrigation rates better protecting both soil and stream health. It would also minimise the potential for raw and treated wastewater overflows into the harbour, and for seepage into streams and urban areas.

### **We wish to be heard in support of this submission.**