

Our Reference: 498-01 / 05032100018

21st March 2005

MEDIA RELEASE

TO: CHIEF REPORTER

FROM: Don Young, Manager Utilities & Roading

For release Monday 21st March 2005.

'SEWAGE SPILL FROM CHARLES STREET PUMP STATION'

The Waimakariri District Council has confirmed an overflow of sewage occurred from the Charles Street Sewage Pump Station, in Kaiapoi, on Friday 18th March 2005. The sewer overflow occurred into the Kaiapoi River.

Council staff were made aware of the overflow by a local resident and responded within 15 minutes to correct the fault and stop the overflow. The overflow occurred when both the pumps and alarms failed to operate.

The Manager of Utilities & Roading, Don Young, said *"We have three pumps at the Charles St station and we have alarms that automatically call us whenever there is a fault, but the pumps and alarm system seem to have failed at the same time. While it is disappointing that an overflow occurred, we were very pleased with how quickly our maintenance staff reacted to the overflow and rectified the fault. We are also very grateful for the quick thinking from the resident who noticed the overflow and called us."*

The Council has the pump station working again now, but are still looking into the exact cause of the fault with the alarm system. *"It will likely take a week or two before we have pulled together all the necessary information and confirmed the exact cause of the fault. After we have identified the cause, we will look at our systems and see if any changes need to be made"* Mr Young said.

The Waimakariri District Council have been working closely with Environment Canterbury over the matter and aim to send a full incident report through to Environment Canterbury and Community and Public Health by 4th April 2005.

For further information contact:

Manager Utilities & Roading
Don Young
Ph (03) 313-6136

Fax to:

The Press

North Canterbury News

Northern Outlook

Radio Pacific