



Media Release

Friday 15 February 2008

Beach Deposit Confirmed As Natural Algae

Testing has confirmed the green-brown algae which washed up on Pines Beach is a naturally occurring marine diatom unrelated to the ocean outfall.

Residents in the Pines and Kairaki Beach area were initially concerned it could be sewage washed up from the outfall.

Sampling has confirmed the deposit is a marine diatom, which is a naturally occurring algae which the Council believes is most likely to be from a large marine algal bloom observed off Banks Peninsula in January.

The green-brown sediment has been observed in other areas along the coast, such as New Brighton and Spencer Park.

The Council takes weekly samples from the mouth of the Waimakariri River, adjacent to the ocean outfall, and at Woodend Beach which have not shown any contamination to indicate any discharge from the ocean outfall is reaching the shoreline.

The level of faecal bugs in the water near the outfall have been very low and well within limits considered acceptable for contact recreation.

The Council will be briefing members of the Pines Kairaki Residents Association on the algal testing at their Annual General Meeting in late February.

For more information:
Gary Boot, Utilities Manager. Phone: 03 313 6136.