Invercargill
CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday 17 September, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Urgent advisory: Bluff pipe causes sewage problems

The Invercargill City Council is advising that a burst pipe at the main pump station in Bluff is discharging sewage into Bluff Harbour and Council's contractor is undertaking emergency repairs.

Council's Acting Director of Works and Services, Russell Pearson said that Council was advising people not to swim or collect shellfish from the harbour area until further notice.

"We are working with Environment Southland and Public Health South to identify the extent of the issue and put remedial measures in place."

Mr Pearson said the burst pipe meant Council was having to truck the sewage from the pumping station to the Bluff Wastewater Treatment Plant in an effort to reduce the overflowing sewage.

He urged Bluff residents to assist by reducing the use of water in their homes – by reducing the amount of water being used by washing machines, dishwashers, showers, baths and flushing toilets.

"This will help us reduce the volume we have to transport away by truck."

Mr Pearson said staff were working to urgently identify the extent of the damage, identify a repair method and conduct repairs. That might take up to twelve hours to achieve.

Council would issue updates as more information became available, he said.

ENDS.

Inquiries, Acting Director of Works and Services, Russell Pearson, (0274) 357 493.

Manager Communications and Secretarial Services, Eirwen Harris, 211 1678, (027) 293 8680
Fax: 211 1434 Email:eirwen.harris@icc.govt.nz
Or
Communications Advisor, Andrei Robertson, 211 1601, (027) 231 3939
Fax: 211 1433 Email:andrei.robertson@icc.govt.nz