



Media release

Wednesday 10 February 2016

## **First stage of Leeston Stormwater upgrade completed**

Stage one of the Leeston Stormwater bypass is substantially complete. Upgrades to the drain from the Country Lane wetland to Manse Road have been made, with permission from the Martin Family and the Canterbury District Health Board. The drain along High Street from Manse Road to the Showgrounds culvert has also been upgraded. Both drains have been widened and deepened, and the size of culverts has been increased so the drains can carry more water.

The recently completed section of the drain along High Street from Manse Road to the Showgrounds includes a lowered platform that will form part of the proposed Leeston to Doyleston cycleway and walkway planned for 2016/17. In order to fit both the larger drain and cycleway into the available land, this section of cycleway could be subject to inundation for a short time when the drain is carrying high flows. If this occurs people can use the road beside this until water levels drop.

Stage one work is part of a larger project to divert stormwater away from Leeston's town centre through a bypass from Leeston Creek to Volckman Road.

Stage two of work on Manse Road, will be timed to coincide with the undergrounding of power cables and roading upgrades. Manse Road will be widened and a new footpath created on the west side of Manse Road between Selwyn Street and Country Lane. These works are planned to start this year.

Stages three and four of the project include an upgrade of the Showground culvert and downstream drains, and the creation of a swale between Leeston Creek and the wetland through the land known locally as the Martin Block. Completion of these works will allow water to be diverted away from Leeston town centre when heavy rain occurs.

These improvements to the stormwater system are designed to improve the capacity of drains and other infrastructure and divert water away from Leeston's town centre when heavy rain occurs.

The Council is continuing to maintain and improve the existing open drains and pipes in the township and look for cost effective upgrades. Residents are encouraged to report any localised flooding to Council on 347 2800.

*Photo attached: the drain and culverts between Cunningham Street and Manse Road has been made significantly wider and deeper so it can carry more stormwater when heavy rain occurs.*

Ends

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