

The Post

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Te Upoko o te Ika



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The best of
Sundance 2026

ENTERTAINMENT



Evacuation

Mould forces
students out of halls

NEWS



Politicians tested at Waitangi

The PM avoided major disruption at Waitangi yesterday, as the day went off without a hitch – just a few heckles.

Read more on pg4 and catch up on all Waitangi coverage at www.thepost.co.nz



Politicians are welcomed to Waitangi with a pōwhiri at Te Tii Marae. THE PRESS

Sewage flushes long weekend

The forecast is good – but the sewage-swamped south coast still remains off limits

WASTEWATER

Tom Hunt, Harriet Laughton and Andrea Vance

Wellington is facing a long, sunny Waitangi weekend with millions of litres of raw sewage flowing to the sea, closing south coast beaches and ruling out swimming for months.

At its peak on Wednesday morning, 3300 litres of water and sewage back-flooded into the Moa Point sewage treatment plant, inundating it and shutting down equipment before raw sewage was diverted down another short pipe.

It was expected untreated sewage will be flowing to the south coast at the rate of 70 million litres a day for days.

Yesterday evening, Wellington Water said all untreated wastewater was still being discharged through the short outfall pipe, and it was working to divert as much as possible to the 1.8km long outfall pipe as quickly as possible.

MetService is forecasting a mainly fine long weekend with just the chance of showers tomorrow and Sunday.

Wellington mayor Andrew Little has promised an investigation into the "catastrophic" situation. He pledged to

make the findings public – but said the immediate priority had to be stopping the flowing sewage and getting the plant working again.

Local Government Minister Simon Watts has also requested "urgent advice" on the Moa Point wastewater failure "and what options I have as minister to address the issue".

The traditional Island Bay blessing of the boats on Sunday, a nod to the suburb's Italian history, has been cancelled due to the outfall.

Wellington Water has, for now, said Wellington Harbour remained safe to swim

in but all advisory was based on predicted flows. The first tested sampling from the south coast and harbour was not due back until after deadline last night.

Greater Wellington Regional Council environment senior advisor Penny Fairbrother said NIWA modelling, showing the harbour was largely immune from the outfall, was based on modelling showing a current was likely to drive the sewage to the west.

Preliminary results yesterday afternoon indicated little contamination outside of

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CUBA STREET SUMMER SERIES

SUN FEB 15

Fringe Takeover

10AM - 5PM

SAT FEB 28

Park(ing) Day

10AM - 5PM

FRINGE
ARTS FESTIVAL

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

wellington sculpture trust