

## DOWNSTREAM DEFENDERS FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT



### NEWLY INSTALLED STORMWATER SEPARATORS have proven to be a valuable addition to the district's infrastructure system.

The separators, or Downstream Defenders as they are known by producer Hynds, catch pollutants in our stormwater network prior to it reaching the lake. We are then able to remove these pollutants with sucker trucks and dispose of them appropriately at the Broadlands Road landfill.

Asset manager stormwater and solid waste Brent Aitken said the devices have proven very successful.

"We now have eight Downstream Defenders throughout the district: at the outlets near the Two Mile Bay boat ramp, Hawaii Street, Taharepa Road, Ruapehu Street, Tongariro Street, and near the Hole in One in Taupō, as well as the Kohineheke Reserve outlet and Turanga Place outlet in Turangi," he said.

"The Defenders catch all the material that gets washed into our stormwater system by rainwater – things like cigarette

butts and plastic and floating litter, but also brake dust and rubber particles from vehicles, so this is pretty nasty stuff. We empty each Defender three times a year, and on average every time we empty them we are seeing about a tonne of this material taken from each device, so from all eight devices that is around 24 tonnes each year that no longer reaches our lake, and that is a fantastic result."

Mr Aitken said that the Defenders were part of an ongoing effort to improve the district's stormwater infrastructure, and that a further nine devices were scheduled to be installed in the future.

"The Downstream Defenders have nothing projecting above ground so are not taking up space on our reserves and are virtually invisible to the community. They may be out of sight and out of mind but they do a great job at keeping all those pollutants from getting into the lake, particularly when we have heavy rains."



## ON CHANGES TO OFF-LEAD DOG AREAS IN ACACIA BAY

**NOW IS YOUR CHANCE** to have your say on changes to off-lead dog areas in Acacia Bay This follows a recent review and consultation of the Control of Dogs Bylaw earlier in the year.

Policy manager Nick Carroll said this additional consultation period will allow further feedback specifically for changes in Acacia Bay.

"We have been made aware that local residents in Acacia Bay did not receive communication targeted to them regarding the initial consultation earlier in the year, due to issues with newspaper circulation.

"While we used a number of different channels to ensure residents were made aware of the consultation and engagement processes, we have decided to ask for further feedback specifically regarding the proposal to replace Besley Park with the stormwater gully between Acacia Bay Road and Reeves Road as an off-leash dog exercise area.

"While Besley Park is to remain a dog-friendly environment, dogs will be required to be on-lead," he said.

To find out more and to have your say head to our website. Submissions are now open and close on Monday 9 August.

## REMINDER TO FLUSH YOUR TAPS

**THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH** has identified that some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water that has been standing for several hours. This is known as plumbosolvency, and while the risk to households is very low, the Ministry recommends that you flush and discard at least one mugful of tap water each morning to remove any metals that are present.

Running your tap for about 5 seconds when you first use it in the morning makes sure any trace metals that have been dissolved from lead pipes or solder joints is flushed away, and the Ministry recommends this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.



Have your say

**REMEMBER TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR DISTRICT'S REPRESENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

[taupodc.govt.nz/review](http://taupodc.govt.nz/review)

**PLASTIC FREE JULY**

**WANT TO TRY YOUR hand at making reusable bowl covers, produce bags, or beeswax wraps?** We're teaming up with Boomerang Bags to offer you a special workshop to help you go plastic free. No experience needed – all ages and levels welcome.

We'll have everything you need, but if you've got a sewing machine or sewing supplies, we'd love for you to bring it along.

**Saturday, July 24 | 1 to 4pm**  
**Function Room, Taupo Events Centre (AC Baths Ave)**  
**Light refreshments provided**