

# Saving the harbour makes sense when times are tough

Save Our Harbour is urging all Whangarei residents to submit to the Whangarei District Council's Long Term Council Community Plan demanding zero tolerance to raw untreated sewage being discharged into our harbour and waterways.

The Save Our Harbour group says now is the time to clean up the environment.

"We must act now to restore the health of the harbour. We can fix our sewerage and stormwater systems but we can't replace our harbour," says Louise Esse on behalf of the group.

"Every time there is a sewage discharge, the upper harbour is closed for a month for gathering kaimoana, in these worsening economic times denying our community a major food resource is intolerable.

"It is incredible that the WDC has

acknowledged stormwater infiltration into the sewerage network is the key problem, yet none of the options outlined in the LTCCP involve reducing stormwater infiltration," says Ms Esse.

"In fact, council have proposed to reduce the budget for wastewater systems upgrades and inflow and infiltration reduction.

"There are funds available to prioritise this issue, over \$80 million has been identified as planned expenditure on sewerage in the LTCCP. That must be focused on reducing stormwater infiltration.

"Funds earmarked for other projects should also be reprioritised towards saving the harbour."

Save Our Harbour is holding a public meeting on Monday May 4 at 5pm at AgFirst's conference room, 51A Norfolk St.