

Tuesday 25 August | 2026

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ccc.govt.nz

Kia ora,

An update on odour management in your area

We're getting in touch with another update on the work underway to address odour issues associated with the odour treatment bed near your property or business (shown on the map below).

Our investigations indicate that the existing odour treatment system at Birmingham Drive may no longer be large enough for current operating conditions.

While we develop a long-term solution, we've implemented a range of measures to improve odour control and are continuing to investigate further options.



What we've found

We've carried out a detailed investigation to better understand the source of odours in the area. As part of this work, we've inspected wastewater pipes along Birmingham Drive and Hands Road using CCTV and jet cleaning equipment, investigated nearby businesses to identify any activities that may contribute to odour issues and reviewed pump station operations, including wastewater volumes and pump cycle times.

These investigations have not identified any conditions or activities that would cause increased odour, and the pump stations were found to be operating as expected.

Actions we've taken to address odour

We've completed several improvements aimed at reducing odour levels in the area, including:

- Installing a temporary odour treatment unit at the Birmingham Drive site.
- Adding four additional cubic metres of odour control material to improve treatment performance.
- Installing custom-made carbon filters on the temporary treatment unit vents to provide an additional layer of odour removal.
- Adjusting the temporary unit's exhaust system to direct treated air away from nearby pedestrian areas
- Sealing a vented manhole on Birmingham Drive to help reduce odour release.
- Installing odour monitoring equipment.

Short-term improvements

We're continuing to investigate additional measures that could further reduce odours, including:

- Chemical dosing with magnesium hydroxide within the wastewater network to reduce odour generation.
- Installing a temporary advanced-treatment odour unit using a two-stage trickle filter system.
- Replacing odour treatment media at the Wigram Road odour treatment facility to improve odour control further upstream in the network.

Long-term solution

A permanent upgrade to the odour treatment system is being prioritised as part of future wastewater infrastructure planning. This work will include:

- Engaging specialist consultants to develop an improved odour treatment solution.
- Developing a renewal and upgrade plan for the existing odour control infrastructure.
- Installing a replacement or upgraded odour treatment system.
- This project will be considered through planning for the Council's Long Term Plan 2027-37 programme.

Stay in touch

Going forward you can stay up to date with what we're doing by checking our website. We'll keep this dedicated webpage up to date with the latest information at ccc.govt.nz/middleton-odour

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me on 03 941 8021 or jeanette.gower@ccc.govt.nz

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding.

Ngā mihi nui,

Jeanette Gower
Team Leader Water and Wastewater Operations
Christchurch City Council

