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6 August 2009

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS  
CIVIC REPORTERS

### **Council puts up warning signs at Morrison's Beach**

The Invercargill City Council has erected warning signs regarding elevated levels of faecal contamination sourced from the adjacent stormwater run-off at Morrison's Beach in Bluff.

Invercargill City Council's Drainage Manager Malcolm Loan said Council believed the levels of faecal contamination in the stormwater at Bluff were considered to be sourced from animals and were within the normal range identified by NIWA for such areas.

"An elevated level of contamination in stormwater is quite common and is to be expected from urban areas after significant rain events when run-off occurs. At this stage there is no evidence to suggest that stormwater in Bluff is being cross-contaminated by sewage from the reticulated services," Mr Loan said.

Environment Southland regularly monitors water at bathing sites and areas where people commonly gather shellfish over the summer.

Council's Environmental Health Services Manager Debbie Fortuin said swimming, jet/water skiing or collecting seafood in this area was not recommended until further notice.

For more information on the latest monitoring results go to [www.es.govt.nz](http://www.es.govt.nz)

Council had a protocol with Public Health South and Environment Southland that when elevated levels of contamination occurred in water likely to be used for recreation, then Council would erect warning signs.

Mr Loan said elevated levels were a regular occurrence in the Oreti River at Sandy Point (there are permanent signs here) and from time to time in other areas. This faecal contamination is understood to have come from farm runoff.

Council warning signs would remain in place until the levels dropped, he said.

ENDS.

Drainage Manager Malcolm Loan 027 435 7492.

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