

Warning as storm causes sewerage overflow

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The community is being warned not to come into contact with water in Broome's Roebuck Bay after the Shire of Broome was notified of potential contamination with sewage from Water Corporation treatment facilities.

With more than 400mm of rain in the past 24 hours, the Water Corporation's treatment ponds have overflowed and discharged sewage into Roebuck Bay.

The Shire of Broome is therefore advising against people or animals swimming or coming into contact with water at Town Beach, Demco, Simpson's Beach or elsewhere in Roebuck Bay at least while heavy rain continues. The Shire also advises against consuming fish or shellfish from Roebuck Bay at present.

The Shire of Broome is now carrying out water testing and will work with the Water Corporation to monitor any public health impacts arising from the contamination.

At the Water Corporation's request, the Shire of Broome irrigated the Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre playing fields with treated wastewater overnight to lower the level in the treatment ponds after receiving WA Health Department approval, however this was only partially successful.

However, the BRAC playing fields will remain closed while rain continues.

Additionally, a Water Corporation pumping station malfunctioned overnight requiring the evacuation of several homes at Catalinas near Town Beach due to suspected sewage contamination.

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