

## How to reduce the risk of flooding

- Do not obstruct any overland flow paths on your property
- Do not fill in depressions in your property until you are certain that it is not an overland flow path as this is likely to cause flooding elsewhere
- Vehicle crossings need to be designed to comply with Council design standards to prevent stormwater from the road flowing down your driveway
- If fences are to be constructed across overland flow paths, these must be specifically designed to ensure overland flow paths are not obstructed.
- Do not inadvertently redirect overland flow paths towards your house when you carry out landscaping
- Where possible, shape ground to fall away from buildings
- Buildings constructed with a slab base are a greater flood risk than those of pile or block base-type construction.

Franklin District Council is in the process of identifying and mapping all overland flow paths throughout the district. These will be indicated in Council's geographical information system, which will be available to the public via [www.franklin.govt.nz](http://www.franklin.govt.nz) when available.

For more information on overland flow paths contact Franklin District Council on 09 237 1300.



82 Manukau Road, Pukekohe, Private Bag 5, Pukekohe, 2120  
DX EP77018, Telephone: 09 237 1300, Fax: 09 237 1301  
E-mail: [FDC\\_Info@franklin.govt.nz](mailto:FDC_Info@franklin.govt.nz), Building Team 09 237 1340  
[www.franklin.govt.nz](http://www.franklin.govt.nz)

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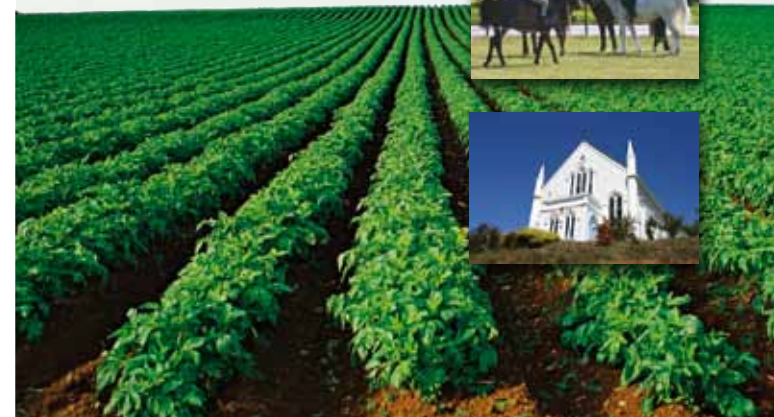
**Franklin**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



# OVERLAND FLOW PATHS

## OVERLAND FLOW PATHS

**What are they  
and what are  
property owners  
responsibilities?**





## WHAT IS AN OVERLAND FLOW PATH?

An overland flow path is the route taken by stormwater runoff as it flows overland making its way downhill. It follows the path of least resistance to an open drain, stormwater system, stream, pond, wetland or the sea.

*Overland flow paths may be engineered as part of the subdivision process and recorded on the property title OR are the existing “natural” ground shape.*

An overland flow path can vary in width and depth depending on the terrain of the ground over which it flows.

### Why are overland flow paths so important?

Overland flow paths play an integral role in the uninterrupted disposal of stormwater runoffs.

*They are the system for disposal of stormwater if the public piped system blocks, capacity is exceeded or does not exist (which is sometimes the case in older established areas).*

### Who is responsible for maintaining overland flow paths on private property?

Property owners are responsible for maintaining overland flow paths on their property. They need to ensure that any overland flow path on their property is unobstructed. They must ensure that there are no structures such as garages, fences, retaining walls and landscaping works built in the way of an overland flow path.

Franklin District Council may direct a property owner to remove an obstruction to an overland flow path. Council can assist you in identifying overland flow paths, and how to restore or create a suitable alternative for these if they have already been obstructed.

### Who is responsible for maintaining overland flow paths on public property?

Franklin District Council maintain overland flow paths on public property. This happens on a regular basis as part of public drainage maintenance work.

### Property owners responsibilities with overland flow paths

- Property owners need to be aware of the existence of overland flow paths running across their property. They have a responsibility to ensure that flow paths crossing their property remain unobstructed
- Property owners looking at subdividing or embarking on a building project need to ensure they preserve overland flow paths
- A property owner is legally required to accept stormwater run-off that would naturally flow onto their property
- The entry and exit point of the overland flow path may not be altered on any property unless a formal agreement has been made with the owners of affected neighbouring properties
- If the overland flow path is protected by an easement or consent notice on the property title, any change will need to be legally identified
- Overland flow paths are required regardless of the existence of a piped system, to cater for extreme storms or in the event of pipe blockages
- Permanent structures should not be constructed within an overland flow path
- For developments on land subject to overland flow, applications for building consent will be subject to provisions under the Building Act which may include refusal or conditional consent condition.

