



PRESS RELEASE

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Updates on Yesterday's Weather-Related Incidents

Following the collapse of the retaining wall along Europa Road, engineers from Technical Services Department have engaged with representatives of the owners of the land to agree on a course of action to allow Europa Road to be re-opened as quickly as possible.

Emil Hermida, the Chief Executive Officer for Technical Services, has explained that re-opening Europa Road is not a simple matter of clearing rubble and debris on the road. The first thing that needs to be done is to regrade the slope in order to make the area safe. Unfortunately, there are space constraints further up the slope which makes this technically challenging, but the public's safety is always the top priority.

The land owners, who are the Rock Hotel, have engaged a local firm of civil engineering consultants who are working closely with Technical Services to agree on the most efficient way of dealing with the problem.

Safety measures will in place such that one lane of Europa Road will be opened for north-bound traffic (ie heading towards the town) between 7:30am and 10:00am on Thursday and Friday. The road will then be completely closed over the weekend to permit engineering work to continue. Engineers have advised the Government that the road will be open in both directions by Monday morning. Europa Road will remain closed to pedestrians at all times. However, 24 hour access will be allowed through Alameda Gardens for the duration of the works.

Green Lane remains open.

In light of the closure of Europa Road, the Technical Services Department has postponed the planned resurfacing work along Queensway to avoid further traffic congestion during this time.

Meanwhile, Technical Services staff have also been investigating the causes of yesterday's flooding on Queensway. There was an existing blockage in the storm water culvert that runs along the area of Europort Avenue. In order to overcome this obstruction, there is an over-pumping regime in place. However, the pumps were unable to evacuate the excessive volume of water caused by the extreme levels of rainfall - over 22 mm in less than 2 hours.

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This water backed up along Queensway where it entered a separate storm water drainage system in the area of Westside School. This culvert could not cope with the additional load and the situation was compounded by high tides, which reduce the discharge capacity of the system.

The blockage on Europort Avenue cannot be readily removed without causing further damage to the system so in the interim period, whilst a more permanent solution is found, the Technical Services Department will upgrade its over-pumping capacity to minimise the risk of a reoccurrence in the future.