



## Illegal stormwater discharges cause sewage overflow.

Excess water drained into the sewerage system from illegal stormwater connections and flooded backyards caused a cocktail of raw sewage and dirty stormwater to flow untreated into the Brunswick River at Mullumbimby in February and March this year.

In an attempt to stop sewage entering the Brunswick River via overflows caused by stormwater infiltration Byron Shire Council last year began major works to repair faults in the Mullumbimby sewerage system. The work included repairing aged and broken sewerage pipes.

In February and March, after just one day of rain, the practice of illegally draining backyard stormwater into sewerage inlets resulted in a sewage overflow. The illegal discharges seriously undermines the repair work done by both Council and community groups to restore the health of the Brunswick River. Local oyster growers are also immediately effected by the pollution.

Council inspectors will be on call to patrol flood prone areas of Byron Shire during heavy rain. They will issue on the spot fines for any illegal stormwater connections and interference with the sewerage inlet. Illegal stormwater discharges and connections can be reported by telephoning Narelle D'Amico on 6626-7000.

19<sup>th</sup> April 2002



