

# **Analysis of Street Sweeping Efficiencies for Road Runoff Pollution Reduction**

Frances J. Charters

Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering Hydrological and Ecological Engineering Research Group



## **Contents**









## <span id="page-3-0"></span>**Executive Summary**

Road runoff is a key contributor of sediment and heavy metal pollution to urban waterways. Street sweeping is considered as a potential pollutant reduction measure as it removes builtup pollutants directly from the road surface. There are two levels of benefit recognized for street sweeping: the removal of gross pollutants and litter is termed 'aesthetic sweeping', while removal of finer particles and associated pollutants such as heavy metals can be termed 'effects mitigation', as it reduces the amount of pollutants entering the receiving environment. However, studies to date have been inconclusive on street sweeping's effectiveness for ecological protection. Several factors influence the effectiveness of street sweeping, including climate factors such as rainfall intensity, duration and length of antecedent dry period; surface factors such as traffic intensity and roughness; pollutant factors such as available accumulated load and particle size distribution; and sweeper factors such as sweeper type, speed, frequency, and prioritization of roads. Matching the location and frequency of sweeping to load generation is key for achieving overall effectiveness in street sweeping for effects mitigation.

This study developed new data on the unswept and swept runoff quality from five road sites around Christchurch city. The selected sites represented a range of traffic intensities and surrounding land-use activities (both of which can correlate to pollutant load build up on the surface). The sites were also selected in proximity to other Christchurch City Council surface water monitoring sites. The new data contrasts with previous studies, which have mostly focused on road sediment characterization rather than unswept and swept road runoff comparisons. Quantification of the swept road runoff quality is valuable for understanding what is entering roadside sumps and what is potentially being passed onto the receiving environment. This informs expected adverse impacts that needs to be managed.

A rainfall simulator was used at each site to generate unswept road runoff (at 11 mm/hr intensity), vacuum-swept road runoff and regenerative-swept road runoff (both at 11, 22 and 33 mm/hr intensities). Runoff samples (whole of flow) were collected three times during each plot to quantify first flush effects. Samples were analysed for total suspended solids, particle size distribution, total and dissolved copper and total and dissolved zinc.

Lunns Road, a medium-trafficked industrial road, was found to have the highest pollutant concentrations for sediment and heavy metals, with first flush concentrations of 360-1,200 mg/L TSS, 1,630-3,057 µg/L total copper and 1,550-6,148 µg/L total zinc. This also had the finest PSD. Overall, the two industrial/commercial sites (Lunns Road and Princess Street) and one residential street with a very coarse chipseal surface, Montana Ave, were found to



have substantially higher pollutant concentrations in both unswept and swept runoff. The sites with the lowest pollutant concentrations were a highly trafficked but smooth inner city road (Durham Street) and a low trafficked, moderately smooth residential road (Sabys Road).

The regenerative sweeper was observed to be 18-77% (average of 49%) effective at removing TSS for the situations where TSS >150 mg/L. Similarly, vacuum sweeping was seen to achieve 0-69% removal rates (average of 50%) for TSS where TSS >300 mg/L. This corroborates a theory in literature of different sweeper technologies requiring a minimum threshold amount of sediment on a surface before they become effective. At TSS concentrations less than these thresholds, no consistent removal was observed (assuming that the swept plots had similar unswept pollutant build up to the unswept plot). There was also visual evidence of slurry deposits on the road surface caused by the regenerative sweeper, indicating need for refined operating procedures. For Lunns Road, the site of the highest TSS concentrations, particle size analysis indicates that the regenerative sweeper was able to remove fine sediment down to around the 10 µm size range. The successful removal of this fine sediment bodes well for reducing the adverse ecological effects on the receiving waterway as it is these finer size fractions that have proportionally more ecotoxic heavy metals adsorbed to their surface and are less likely to get captured in any catchpits or catchpit inserts.

For effects mitigation, this study's data indicates that the greatest benefit from future sweeping operations would be to prioritise sweeping of industrial/commercial roads (i.e. higher frequency) and coarse asphalt roads for residential areas. Standard Operating Procedures are needed to ensure sweepers are cleaned and maintained such that deposition of pollutants cannot occur, and operators are trained to inspect for sweeping and catchpit maintenance needs when they are out on site. Further assessment is recommended on the optimization of street sweeping scheduling with consideration given to scheduling of catchpit insert cleaning and identification of priority streets.



#### <span id="page-5-0"></span>**1 Introduction and project scope**

Runoff from urban surfaces such as roads contributes sediment and heavy metal pollution into our waterways, causing both immediate and long-term adverse impacts on aquatic ecosystems. Street sweeping is one measure that has the potential to minimise the amount of pollutants that can reach the waterways from road runoff (Depree, 2011).

The practice of street sweeping aims to lift and retain sediment from road surfaces, reducing the sediment and associated particulate metals concentrations in road runoff when it next rains. By proxy, the process of sediment removal will also remove particulate metals (metals adsorbed to the surface of the sediment). The typical objective for street sweeping is to remove gross pollutants (including litter and organic matter), from blocking drains and roadside catchpits or sumps. However, street sweeping is an important component of the road runoff treatment train, in tandem with catchpits. Street sweeping provides a function of maintaining higher catchpit removal efficiencies by taking out some of the pollutant loads that would otherwise fill the catchpits.

Christchurch City Council (CCC) engaged the University of Canterbury (UC) to undertake field trials of unswept and swept road runoff quality to assess the effectiveness of street sweeping for pollutant reduction. This report documents Phase 2 of a wider project "Comprehensive Stormwater Network Discharge Consent (CSNDC); Schedule 4(c) - a trial for increased targeted/selective street sweeping", which seeks to optimise the effectiveness of its street sweeping practices for pollutant removal from road runoff and also ensure that Council meets its obligations under the CSNDC conditions. Phase 1 was a literature review that identified the most influential factors for street sweeping, and it informed the design of the street sweeping field trials of Phase 2. Phase 2 aimed to create a dataset of road runoff quality to compare the relative difference between unswept and swept conditions, rainfall intensity and road surface characteristics (traffic intensity, surface condition) on runoff quality. This report extends the literature review from Phase 1 and outlines the methodology and results from the Phase 2 field trials.

#### <span id="page-5-1"></span>**2 Literature Review**

#### <span id="page-5-2"></span>**2.1 Factors influencing the build up and wash off of pollutants from road surfaces**

Previous studies have identified a range of factors that affect the build-up and physicochemical characteristics of the pollutants, and therefore how they can be captured by street sweepers (Amato et al., 2010; Calabrò, 2010; Depree, 2011; Hixon & Dymond, 2018; Kang et al., 2009; Kim et al., 2014; Pitt, 1979; Selbig & Bannerman, 2007; Sutherland & Jelen,



1997; Walker et al., 1999). Other factors influence the wash off of the remaining (postsweeping) particles and therefore the resultant post-sweeping runoff quality (Egodawatta et al., 2007). These factors can be broadly categorised into: surface factors, pollutant characteristics, climate characteristics (how it rains) and technology factors (street sweeper type and operation) (Figure 1).

## <span id="page-6-0"></span>**2.2 Factors influencing the ability of street sweeping to remove particles from the road surface**

#### <span id="page-6-1"></span>*2.2.1 Initial pollutant loading, length of antecedent dry period and season*

The length of antecedent dry period has been demonstrated to drive the rate of pollutant build up on a surface in dry weather (Wicke et al., 2012). Importantly, pollutant build up reaches a saturation maximum over time; as the number of antecedent dry days increases, the rate of pollutant accumulation decreases until saturation is reached. Typical saturation periods of 6-7 days have been reported for road and carpark sediment (Egodawatta & Goonetilleke, 2006; Sartor et al., 1974; Wicke et al., 2012).

In turn, the length of the antecedent dry period is related to the season. For example, analysis of Christchurch rainfall data from 2010 to 2021 shows rain events in winter have the shortest ADDs (average of 3.1 days, range of 0.3-19.3 days), while summer events have the longest ADDs (average of 4.2 days, range of 0.3-29 days) (unpublished; data sourced from NIWA's Kyle St weather station, analysed by Frances Charters, University of Canterbury). This suggests the pollutant build up may vary seasonally. However, a count of the number of events that exceed 6 days (the indicated saturation period) shows there as just as many winter events with ADD >6 days, as summer and spring events (with autumn recording 14% more than winter). Therefore, for the Christchurch climate, it is unlikely that seasonallyresponsive scheduling of street sweeping will provide much additional benefit.

Several studies have found that street sweepers are unable to remove particles unless the surface loading is greater than a particular threshold amount, which, in turn, varies based on particle size distribution (Law et al., 2008; Walker et al., 1999). Mechanical sweepers have a loading threshold three times higher than regenerative-air sweepers (see Section 2.3.1).



Report for Christchurch City Council May 2024



*Figure 2-1: Factors that influence street sweeping performance*



## <span id="page-8-0"></span>*2.2.2 Surface usage and surrounding catchment activities*

Traffic intensity influences both the amount (load) and nature of the pollutants on a road surface. Local untreated road runoff quality data from Christchurch has shown corresponding increases in suspended solids and metals concentrations with increasing traffic intensity (Charters et al., 2021). It is therefore important to assess a range of road surfaces to capture variation in sweeping performance associated with the variability of pollutant loading and particle size distribution.

Nearby activities have also been recognised as a contributing factor to road pollutant build-up (Depree, 2008; Jeong et al., 2020). Industrial and construction activities can contribute as additional source of sediment and/or heavy metals to the direct deposition sources from vehicles on roads. Two recent New Zealand studies have found that industrial/commercial activities are a stronger influence on pollutant loads in catchpit sediments that traffic intensity (SCO Consulting, 2022, 2024)

#### <span id="page-8-1"></span>*2.2.3 Surface slope and location on surface*

One study reported that higher concentrations of fine sediment were found in areas of greater slope (e.g. the sloped side of channels by the kerb edge) (Wang et al., 2020). Furthermore, other studies have shown ~90% of sediments are found within 2 m from the kerb (Duncan et al., 1985; Grottker, 1987; Pitt, 1979). One study concluded that street sweeping should be performed solely in the edge lanes of the roadway (Amato et al., 2010).

## <span id="page-8-2"></span>**2.3 Factors influencing runoff quality post-sweeping**

#### <span id="page-8-3"></span>*2.3.1 Sweeper type and influence of particle size distribution*

Street sweepers can generally be categorised into three categories (Amato et al., 2010):

- 1. Mechanical broom uses a rotating brush head along the gutter line, followed by a pick-up broom to sweep the dislodged particulate matter onto a conveyor belt into a hopper.
- 2. Vacuum-assisted broom uses an impeller/fan to create suction to draw up particulates dislodged by a rotating brush head.
- 3. Regenerative air uses blown air to dislodge particulates which are then vacuumed into a hopper; also uses a rotating brush along the gutter line.



Vacuum-assisted and regenerative-air sweepers are better at removing fine particles (<100 um), while mechanical sweepers are more effective for larger particles (>100-125 um) (Amato et al., 2010; Calabrò, 2010). For broom sweepers, operational factors such as brush rotational speed, bristle length and brush tilt angle have all been shown to affect removal efficiency (Kim et al., 2014). Overall, vacuum-assisted broom and regenerative air sweepers are more effective than mechanical broom sweepers (Wang et al., 2020), due to the expected particle size distribution of road-deposited solids (RDS) (Charters et al., 2015). However, both mechanical and regenerative sweepers require a minimum threshold amount of sediment on the street surface before they become effective (Walker et al., 1999). For example, the removal efficiency of regenerative sweepers for particles 250- 2,000 µm has been observed to drop to zero due to this threshold effect (Sutherland & Jelen, 1997).

Fine particles are more difficult to remove due to their stronger attachment to the road surface (Kim et al., 2014). Managing fine particles is of concern as they have been found to be readily mobilised by even small rain events (Calabrò, 2010) (Walker et al., 1999), and they carry a higher concentration of associated particulate metals (Maniquiz-Redillas & Kim, 2014; Sansalone et al., 1996). One study suggested use of a tandem operation, where a mechanical street sweeper is used to first remove coarser particles, followed by a regenerative-air sweeper to remove finer particles, in order to maximise solids removal (Amato et al., 2010). However, an earlier study by Sutherland and Jelen (1997) had found the tandem operation to be the least efficient despite some high individual removal efficiencies, with substantial performance variation. Instead, Sutherland and Jelen (1997) recommended a small-micron sweeper for more effective removal of smaller size fractions, as testing demonstrated its effectiveness without the threshold effect seen for mechanical and regenerative sweepers.

Another recognised issue with water-based dust suppression methods used on sweepers such as regenerative sweepers is that they can resuspend the finer particles and mix with the water to form a slurry that adheres to the road surface (Walker et al., 1999).The finer particles can also escape sweeper capture as they are readily mobilized into the air by the high pressure air that is used to dislodge the coarser particles. The small-micron surface sweeper that was identified by Sutherland and Jelen (1997) as the most efficient sweeper type sweeps dry, with no water being used, and this is considered a key contributor to its improved



performance. Overall, however, Walker et al. (1999) concluded that the role of sweeper type on pollutant removal efficiencies is outweighed by other factors such as surrounding land use activities, antecedent dry period, sweeping frequency and timing and sweeper operation.

#### <span id="page-10-0"></span>*2.3.2 Sweeper speed and number of passes*

Multiple passes have not been found to increase the overall removal rate of particles (Kim et al., 2014). This is considered to be due to the fineness of the remaining particles and their stronger attachment to the road surface. However, sweeping speed has been found to substantially influence the removal rates, with one study reporting 60% RDS removal at 4-8 km/hr compared to <5% removal at 20 km/hr (Kim et al., 2014).

#### <span id="page-10-1"></span>*2.3.3 Frequency of sweeping*

As expected, more frequent sweeping has been found to correlate to improved pollutant removal rates. One study suggested a sweeping frequency based on three times the mean inter-event dry period (in this case, 8 days, for Melbourne, Australia), as approximately 35% of rain events in that climate were considered to be gross pollutant transporting events (Walker et al., 1999). However, how much influence sweeping frequency has on the resultant runoff quality is related to the local build-up dynamics that drive how quickly maximum saturation is reached on the road surface (see Section [2.2.1\)](#page-6-1).

This study also considered whether local rainfall conditions create source-limited or transport-limited wash off conditions. Supply-limited conditions occur where there are no longer any solids able to be washed off a surface even when there is still rainfall occurring. Transport-limited conditions occur where larger particles are not able to be mobilised due to lower-energy rainfall dynamics. Given Christchurch's low intensity rainfall climate (Charters et al., 2016), transport-limited conditions are likely for the majority of rain events. In transport-limited conditions, street sweeping techniques may be best tailored to fines removal and there may be only incremental benefits from increasing street sweeping (Walker et al., 1999).

## <span id="page-10-2"></span>*2.3.4 Rainfall intensity and duration*

Rainfall intensity is an indication of the kinetic energy present that allows the entrainment and transport of particles in runoff from a surface (Egodawatta et al., 2007). Therefore, it can be expected that runoff quality for a given event depends on the size of particles remaining on a swept street surface and the corresponding



rainfall intensity. Larger particles will require greater intensity in order to be mobilised.

Differences have been noted in literature between the sediment sizes that natural rainfall can readily entrain compared to the sizes that sweepers can entrain. Calabrò (2010) concluded that natural rain picks up proportionally more finer particles of the available sediment on a road surface, due to the smaller sizes being easier to entrain as they require less energy to do so. However, a mechanical sweeper was found to be able to pick up a higher proportion of the available coarser particles (>425 um), as these were less caught up in interstitial spaces that may prevent the sweeper brush and vacuum from entraining them. Similarly, Pitt and Sutherland (1982) concluded that a significant proportion of the larger dirt particle sizes picked up by street sweepers are not easily transported by natural rain. Furthermore, they considered that removal of these coarser particles during sweeping exposes the smaller sheltered particles and makes them available for wash off during the next rain event, increasing the amount of fine TSS washed off in road runoff.

Street sweeping effectiveness studies have used both natural rainfall and simulated rainfall events. For the simulated rainfall studies, various approaches have been taken to select a meaningful intensities and durations. For example, Kim et al. (2014) selected a rainfall intensity based on 60-min maximum precipitation from historic rain data. Herngren et al. (2005) used 4 different intensities, applied for 12 different durations to matched to Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) events.

#### <span id="page-11-0"></span>*2.3.5 First flush effect*

A 'first flush' effect where the initial runoff is more polluted than later runoff could be expected from road runoff, based on what has been observed previously in literature (Deletic, 1998; Kayhanian et al., 2012) . This first flush effect is driven by the initial availability of pollutants on the road surface that can be readily washed off by the applied rain. Later in the same rain event, the remaining pollutants on the surface are typically coarser (i.e. heavier) or more embedded within the interstitial spaces around the road chip, and therefore require more energy to be entrained and washed off from the surface.



#### <span id="page-12-0"></span>**2.4 Reported unswept road runoff quality**

Reported road runoff quality from New Zealand and overseas shows substantial variation in sediment and heavy metal concentrations [\(Figure 2-2](#page-12-1) to [Figure 2-4;](#page-13-1) see Appendix F for a summary of the data sources). Higher trafficked roads have been found to typically produce higher pollutant concentration but not always. The range for TSS is greater for collector and local roads than what has been reported for highways and arterial roads. However, a first flush effect has been consistently observed regardless of traffic intensity for TSS, copper and zinc. It should be noted that copper concentrations in road runoff may change from this historic data where changes such a move to copper-free brakes pads have been made. However, there is insufficient data reported in literature to identify any effect to date from such copper reduction strategies.



Category

<span id="page-12-1"></span>*Figure 2-2: Reported TSS concentrations in road runoff from higher and lower trafficked roads, for Event Mean Concentration (EMC), first flush (FF) and second stage (SS) data.*





#### Category

*Figure 2-3: Reported total copper concentrations in road runoff from higher and lower trafficked roads, for Event Mean Concentration (EMC), first flush (FF) and second stage (SS) data.*



<span id="page-13-1"></span>*Figure 2-4: Reported international and national total zinc concentrations in road runoff from higher and lower trafficked roads, for Event Mean Concentration (EMC), first flush (FF) and second stage (SS) data.*

#### <span id="page-13-0"></span>**2.5 Reported efficiencies of street sweeping for road pollutant reduction**

There is limited data on the quantified reduction in runoff pollution that can be achieved with street sweeping at both a New Zealand and international level [\(Table 2-1\)](#page-15-0). Furthermore, the findings are inconsistent, with a range of TSS removal rates ranging from 0% to 96% for different sweeping technology and particle size fractions, although the same sweeping technology also reports a wide



performance variation. For example, two different studies reported 30 and 78% TSS removal for a standard vacuum-assisted sweeper, and 5 to 48% in two phases of a single study.

Of the limited data, most is for TSS and only one study provided quantified removal rates for copper and zinc. Overall, these studies are inconclusive about the benefits of street sweeping for direct removal of pollutants. However, the benefit of street sweeping in reducing pollution from roads in urban waterways should be considered in context of the role it has as part of a treatment train for road runoff.



#### *Table 2-1: Reported efficiencies of street sweeping for pollutant reduction*



<span id="page-15-0"></span><sup>1</sup> Study used older sweeping technology, so removal efficiency may be less than what can be achieved by more modern sweeping technology



#### <span id="page-16-0"></span>**2.6 Particle size dynamics in road runoff and street sweeping**

The relative sizes of particles in road runoff is important to characterise for two key reasons. Firstly, finer particles have a higher ratio of surface area to volume and therefore have proportionally more binding sites for heavy metals adsorption. This means smaller particle size fractions have a higher concentration of ecotoxic heavy metals and are of priority for sediment removal to protect downstream receiving environment health (Walker et al., 1999). Depree (2008) found particles <63 µm held at least twice as much zinc and copper as particle size fractions >63 µm. Finer size particle fractions are also more readily mobilised during rainfall due to requiring less energy to wash off and entrain in runoff from the road surface.

Secondly, treatability of sediment via processes such as filtering or settling is connected to the individual sizes of particles. Coarser particles settle faster than finer sediment due to a higher settling velocity, with some fine sediment unlikely to settle out at all. However, where catchpit filters are in place, smaller size fractions may be captured more readily. A study of 200 µm mesh filters found 20% of the captured particles were <63 µm (SCO Consulting, 2024), demonstrating the value of functioning catchpit filters. However, studies have shown that the sediment capture efficiency of catchpit insert reduces rapidly once the insert unit is over 50% full (SCO Consulting, 2024). Therefore, street sweeping at appropriate frequencies for the road pollutant conditions could offer a significant benefit in maintaining the effectiveness of catchpit inserts further down the treatment train.

Particle size analysis of road sediment in literature (from both unswept and swept roads) shows a wide range of distribution across particle size fractions [\(Figure 2-5\)](#page-17-0), reflecting the diversity of sediment build up and wash off conditions. Direct comparisons within individual studies of unswept and swept PSDs show finer PSDs for the swept runoff, indicating that the coarser particles have been successfully removed by the street sweeper. However, there is no difference shown between the range of swept PSDs and unswept PSDs when viewed across all studies.





<span id="page-17-0"></span>*Figure 2-5: Cumulative particle size distribution of road sediment from unswept (U) and swept (S) roads reported in literature*

#### *Table 2-2: Reported particle size capture efficiency (percentage) in unswept and street sweeping captured sediment*



<sup>1</sup> Data sourced from (Hixon & Dymond, 2018)

<sup>2</sup> Data sourced from (Amato et al., 2010)

3 nd – no data available for the particular size fraction



## <span id="page-19-0"></span>**3 Methodology**

#### <span id="page-19-1"></span>**3.1 Selection of trial sites**

Five sites were selected to develop a road runoff quality dataset representative of a range of traffic intensities and catchments [\(Table 3-1\)](#page-19-4). The sites also represent locations that are in close proximity to CCC's monthly surface water quality monitoring programme sites, wet weather monitoring programme sites or other water quality-related projects.



#### <span id="page-19-4"></span>*Table 3-1: Summary of sampling sites*

<sup>1</sup> Annual average daily traffic count (AADT) based on data from indicated years (Christchurch City Council, 2023)

#### <span id="page-19-2"></span>**3.2 Rainfall simulator set up**

#### <span id="page-19-3"></span>*3.2.1 Overview of rainfall simulator*

A Norton rainfall simulator (2 head unit) was used for all field trials. The simulator was run at 6 psi operating pressure. The simulator was calibrated in the laboratory prior to deployment to confirm the applied intensities that the road surface would receive during field trials [\(Table](#page-20-1)  [3-2\)](#page-20-1). In the field, the simulator was supplied with water pumped from a feeder tank on site, filled from Christchurch Council public water supply hydrant via tanker truck.



<span id="page-20-1"></span>



1 Sourced from NIWA (2017) for historical data conditions, at Kyle Street Weather Station, Addington, **Christchurch** 

#### <span id="page-20-0"></span>*3.2.2 Trial conditions*

Trial conditions were selected to enable assessment of how key factors influence the quality of the road runoff, with a view to informing the optimum use and scheduling of street sweepers for various road types in Christchurch city [\(Table 3-3,](#page-20-2) [Figure 3-1\)](#page-21-2).

A minimum antecedent dry period of three days was used, as local Christchurch data indicates a maximum build up on road surfaces occurs after 4-6 dry days (Wicke et al., 2012). Four days antecedent dry period was initially selected but did not provide sufficient opportunity for trialling. In fact, between February and July 2023, no trials were able to be conducted due to not being able to meet the four days antecedent dry period during the working week, and therefore the minimum antecedent dry period was reduced to three days upon agreement with CCC and Environment Canterbury. Three days provided a balance of ensuring there was reasonable build up on the surface whilst providing sufficient opportunity to trial between natural rain events.



#### <span id="page-20-2"></span>*Table 3-3: Trial conditions for each site*

<sup>1</sup> Single pass of sweeper at 5 km/hr



<span id="page-21-2"></span>*Figure 3-1: Site layout of trial plots*

#### <span id="page-21-0"></span>**3.3 Sample collection, preservation and analysis**

#### <span id="page-21-1"></span>*3.3.1 Sample capture system*

For each trial, a 1  $m<sup>2</sup>$  sampling plot with an outlet point was set up under the rainfall simulator [\(Figure 3-2\)](#page-22-1). The plot design was based on a proven approach from international literature, following Herngren et al. (2005). Using a sampling plot provided the key advantage of enabling the rainfall simulator to be set up and samples collected on any road space, independent of the condition of the kerb and channel or presence of sumps. Samples were taken using whole-of-flow capture into HPDE containers. Samples were taken at the start of runoff (t=0), then after typically 7 minutes and 15 minutes of runoff, in order to capture any temporal differences in runoff quality [\(Table 3-3\)](#page-20-2).





*Figure 3-2: Rainfall simulator and sample capture plot set up*

## <span id="page-22-1"></span><span id="page-22-0"></span>*3.3.2 Sample preservation and analysis*

All samples were analysed for sediment and selected heavy metal concentrations [\(Table](#page-23-0)  [3-4\)](#page-23-0). 1 L of raw sample was collected in 1 L HDPE bottles for each sampling timepoint. Raw samples were then split, with a 200 mL subsample taken off for particle size analysis.

For most trials, raw samples were taken immediately after each trial session to the relevant labs for analysis (transported on ice at ≤4°C). For the Durham Street N site, where the trials were undertaken as night works, one of the Montana Ave trial days and the Sabys Road site, all samples were instead taken to the Environmental Laboratory at the University of Canterbury for storage until the CCC Lab reopened. Prior to storage at UC, subsamples were taken for total metals and dissolved metals (filtered with 0.45 um filter) and preserved with nitric acid to pH <2. Chain of custody forms were used to record all handling of samples that were sent to the CCC Lab.



#### <span id="page-23-0"></span>*Table 3-4: Analytical methods*



Particle size analysis (PSA) was undertaken using a Malvern Instruments Mastersizer 3000 laser diffraction unit (0.01-3,500 µm range). A refractive index of 1.457 and absorption index of 0.01 was used, assuming non-spherical, inorganic silica-based particulates. PSA was undertaken only for samples that could achieve adequate obscuration (i.e. the raw samples had sufficient density of particles for accurate particle size analysis). This meant that first flush samples were able to be analysed from all trials, but later stage samples were only able to be analysed from trials run under higher intensities or where the accumulated sediment concentrations were sufficiently elevated.



#### <span id="page-24-0"></span>**3.4 Quality assurance/quality control**

Key quality assurance and control activities were taken in the field and lab as follows:

- In the field, feeder tank water samples were taken each trial day to quantify the background water quality being applied from the rainfall simulator. The hydrant was flushed prior to filling the tanker tank.
- Where multiple trial days were required at a site, a second unswept trial plot was run when the second trial day was run under different conditions than the first day. This resulted in two unswept trials plots being undertaken at Montana Ave and Lunns Road. This provided the benefit of also quantifying the variation in unswept road runoff quality.
- For TSS and heavy metals analysis, duplicates were taken and analysed by CCC Laboratory for every 10<sup>th</sup> sample received.
- For PSA analysis, triplicate particle size distribution readings are taken for each sample and an average of the three readings is used. A target sample obscuration of 8-12% was used.

#### <span id="page-24-1"></span>**4 Results and Discussion**

#### <span id="page-24-2"></span>**4.1 Trial day conditions**

Antecedent dry periods varied between 3.0 and 8.5 days, with a median of 4.8 days [\(Table](#page-25-2)  [4-1;](#page-25-2) further details in Appendix A). All sites had been swept within 4 weeks of the day of trial. The trials took place between 16 January to 2 February 2023, and 8 August to 13 November 2023. The gap in the sampling period was due to a prolonged period of wet weather in autumn and winter that meant the >3 days dry period criteria could not be achieved.



#### <span id="page-25-2"></span>*Table 4-1: Trial days' characteristics*



#### <span id="page-25-0"></span>**4.2 Unswept and swept road runoff quality**

#### <span id="page-25-1"></span>*4.2.1 Sediment*

The highest TSS concentrations were observed at Lunns Road, an area with surrounding industrial/commercial activities [\(Figure 4-1\)](#page-26-0), with first flush (i.e. first 1 L of runoff) concentrations of 695 and 1,195 mg/L TSS for the two unswept plots. However, there was an unusually high TSS concentrations recorded for one of the unswept plots at Montana Ave (636 mg/L TSS), a site in a low trafficked residential street. This indicates that traffic intensity cannot be used as a sole indicator of likely unswept runoff quality. In contrast, surface roughness was visually observed to be correlated to unswept TSS concentration, with the two sites with coarsest surface type (coarse chipseal at Lunns Road and Montana Ave) having the highest unswept TSS, and the site with the smoothest surface (smooth asphalt at Durham Street) found to have the lowest unswept TSS concentration.

The swept plots from each site did not show any trend of reduced TSS concentrations compared to the unswept plot(s) [\(Figure 4-1\)](#page-26-0). For the vacuum-swept plots, TSS concentrations were found to exceed the unswept concentrations for four of the five sites (all except Montana Ave for vacuum swept), while for the regenerative swept plots, swept TSS concentrations exceeded the unswept concentration for three of the five sites (exceptions were Princess Street and Lunns Road) [\(Figure 4-2\)](#page-27-0). The difference between plots may not



be a direct measure, however, of altered load due solely to sweeping, as there will be some variations in the amount of available pollutants on each adjacent plot.

Comparison of TSS concentration with increasing applied rainfall intensity showed that there was not a consistent increase in TSS for the vacuum-swept trials (exception was Montana Ave) [\(Figure 4-2\)](#page-27-0). Three of the five sites did show an increased TSS concentration under increased intensity for the regenerative-swept trials (Durham Street, Sabys Road and Princess Street). Graphical analysis of TSS concentration over time for all trials at each site is provided in Appendix B-1.



<span id="page-26-0"></span>*Figure 4-1: Comparative first flush TSS concentrations for all trials, across the five sites*





<span id="page-27-0"></span>*Figure 4-2: Total suspended solids concentration ranges in road runoff from each of the five sites for vacuum sweeping (top) and regenerative sweeping (bottom)*

Particle size was found to vary substantially between the different sites [\(Figure 4-3\)](#page-28-0). The coarsest unswept PSDs were observed at the low trafficked residential roads: Sabys Road and Montana Ave. The finest unswept PSDs were observed at Lunns Road, a moderately trafficked industrial road. There was also substantial variation in PSD for the same site across different trial days.





<span id="page-28-0"></span>*Figure 4-3: Comparison of unswept plots' D10, D<sup>50</sup> and D<sup>90</sup> PSD metrics for all sites (First flush, t=0) (D10, D<sup>50</sup> and D90: the size of particle at which 10%, 50% and 90% of particles exceed this diameter, respectively)*

PSD comparisons between unswept and swept plots for each site showed Montana Ave, Lunns Road and Princess Street all had swept plots with coarser PSDs than the unswept plot trialled at the same 11 mm/hr intensity (for both vacuum and regenerative swept plots). This generally corresponds with the sites that produced lower TSS concentrations for the swept plot than the unswept plot, suggesting that a range of sizes including fines were being removed. For each size fraction, only a proportion of the particles were being removed (i.e. the sweepers were not seen to remove all particles down to a certain size threshold).

As applied rainfall intensity increased, the coarseness of the PSD was expected to increase due to the increase in energy available to mobilise and entrain the larger particles. However, this was only observed in a consistent manner at Lunns Road. This site had the high TSS concentration and the  $D_{10}$ ,  $D_{50}$  and  $D_{90}$  sizes (the size of particle at which 10%, 50% and 90% of particles exceed this diameter, respectively) were observed to increase with both increasing intensity and from unswept to swept (at the same intensity) [\(Figure 4-4\)](#page-29-0). However, the increase in PSD coarseness is not to an extent that is likely to cause substantial differences in the environmental effects imposed by the sediment or associated metals.





<span id="page-29-0"></span>*Figure 4-4: Lunns Road D10, D50 and D90 sizes for the first flush sample from each trial* 

Limited data was able to be collected to characterise the temporal change in PSD as many of the later stage samples (i.e. t=7 or 15 mins) had insufficient particle density for PSD to be accurately analysed. The exception was the high TSS concentrations at Lunns Road [\(Figure](#page-29-1)  [4-5\)](#page-29-1). A clear trend of increasing  $D_{10}$ ,  $D_{50}$  and  $D_{90}$  over time provides of evidence of the finer particles being preferentially washed off (as could be expected, as more readily mobilised), resulting in increasing coarseness of particle size metrics as only larger particles remain available for later wash off.



<span id="page-29-1"></span>*Figure 4-5: Lunns Road D10, D50 and D90 sizes over time for the unswept and vacuum-swept plots*



At a more nuanced level, the PSDs for the Lunns Road trials were observed to be centred around 10 µm for the vacuum-swept trials (similar to the corresponding unswept trial) and 50 µm for the regenerative-swept trials (where the unswept trial centred around 20 µm) [\(Figure](#page-30-1)  [4-6;](#page-30-1) figures for all sites provided in Appendix B-2). Comparison of the variation in PSDs for each site found that Durham Street had the smallest variation and Sabys Road had the largest variation [\(Figure 4-7\)](#page-30-2). Both these sites had the lowest TSS concentrations of the five sites and suggests that PSD variation is not correlated to the TSS concentration.



<span id="page-30-1"></span>*Figure 4-6: Variation in particle size distribution in road runoff pre- and post-sweeping for Lunns Road site*



<span id="page-30-2"></span>

#### <span id="page-30-0"></span>*4.2.2 Zinc and copper*

As there were some metals found in the tank water (feeding the rainfall simulator), all raw pollutant concentration data was adjusted by discounting the background tank water concentration to produce adjusted runoff concentration data. While sediment in the tank water was negligible, zinc and copper was sometimes found in the tank water to exceed the runoff sample value. Where this occurred these data points were not included in further



analysis. Figures showing the raw and adjusted zinc and copper values are provided in Appendix B-3 and B-4. Hereafter, all data presented in this section is adjusted concentrations.

Lunns Road had the highest first flush copper concentrations (1,630-3,057 µg/L), with a factor of 8-700 greater than that of the other trialled sites [\(Table 4-2,](#page-31-0) [Figure 4-8\)](#page-32-0). The next highest site was Princess Street (58-220 µg/L), with the remaining sites all recording runoff copper concentrations of <85 mg/L. Similarly, Lunns Road also had the highest first flush zinc concentrations (1,550-6,148 µg/L), with a factor of 2-78 times that of other sites (Table [4-2,](#page-31-0) [Figure 4-9\)](#page-33-0).



<span id="page-31-0"></span>*Table 4-2: Copper and zinc concentration ranges (µg/L) for first flush samples across all plots at each site*

1 Where the metal is ~100% in dissolved form, the dissolved concentrations provided by ICPMS analysis can be higher than the corresponding total concentrations due to the acid digestion method used to prepare the total metals sample for analysis





<span id="page-32-0"></span>*Figure 4-8: Total (top) and dissolved (bottom) first flush copper concentration ranges in road runoff from each of the five sites*





<span id="page-33-0"></span>*Figure 4-9: Total (top) and dissolved (bottom) first flush zinc concentration ranges in road runoff from each of the five sites*

Metals partitioning analysis shows that Lunns Road, Durham Street and Princess Street had average unswept dissolved copper percentages between 14-20%, while Sabys Road was much higher at 63%. There was more variation for zinc partitioning, ranging from 99% dissolved at Montana Ave, to 67% at Lunns Road (site with the highest zinc concentrations),



to only 2-3% dissolved at Sabys Road and Princess Street. There is a consistent increase in the proportion of particulate metals post-sweeping, which corroborates with the observation of sediment deposition from the sweeper operation (see Section [4.5](#page-40-1) for further details). The sole exception was the vacuum-swept samples at Lunns Road where the average percent dissolved increased from 67% to 87%. Figures of all partitioning data for copper and zinc for unswept, vacuum- and regenerative-swept plots are provided in Appendix B-3 and B-4.

Mixed, instream water quality limits for (dissolved) copper and zinc are 1.8  $\mu$ g/L and 15  $\mu$ g/L, respectively (Environment Canterbury, 2023) for the lowland, spring-fed urban waterways that are the receiving environments for these sites' runoff. Given that the dissolved metals concentrations at Lunns Road have been observed at 300-400 times these limits, this indicates that this road runoff is likely contributing to adverse ecological impacts in the receiving Curletts Stream.

## <span id="page-34-0"></span>*4.2.3 Comparison to international and national literature-reported runoff quality and particle size distribution*

This study's FF TSS concentrations were often higher than any reported previously in literature, particularly those recorded at Lunns Road, Princess Street and Sabys Road [\(Figure 4-10](#page-35-0)**Error! Reference source not found.**). One FF sample (unswept) at Lunns Road (1,195 mg/L) was 1.8 x higher than the highest reported concentration from literature. However, it should be noted that the majority of the international data is Event Mean Concentration (EMC) and so represents an average concentration over a whole rain event.

Similarly, the FF copper and zinc concentrations observed in this study were generally higher than what has been reported previously in both FF and EMC data. For copper, even the SS data (samples taken 15 minutes after the start of each trial) was generally higher than the FF and EMC data reported elsewhere. Even with the change to copper free brake pads in private vehicles, the copper concentrations in the runoff at Lunns Road are very high compared to what has been reported previously both in New Zealand and internationally. This suggests heavy vehicles' contribution remains an important focus for effective source reduction of copper.

The unswept PSDs observed in this study were all finer than what has been reported to date, with the exception of the two most recent published studies - Charters et al. (2015), which had PSD data from Ilam Road in Christchurch, and Wang (2020), which had PSD data from Yixing City in Eastern China [\(Figure 4-11\)](#page-36-2). The two sites with high TSS concentrations – Lunns Road and Princess Street – were finer than any reported PSD profiles.





<span id="page-35-0"></span>*Figure 4-10: Comparison of A) total suspended solids, B) total copper and C) total zinc concentrations from this study to previous New Zealand and international studies (note log scale used for copper and zinc data)*




*Figure 4-11: Comparison of particle size distribution from this study to previous New Zealand and international studies*

#### **4.3 Percent removal of pollutants**

#### *4.3.1 Sediment*

Increases in TSS concentration between unswept to swept plots, as outlined in Section [4.2.1\)](#page-25-0) were generally observed for TSS, with the exception of Lunns Road for both vacuum and regenerative swept, Montana Ave for vacuum swept and Princess Street for regenerative swept [\(Figure 4-12\)](#page-37-0). It was visually observed that the regenerative sweeper deposited a slurry on parts of the road surface (see Section 4.5 for more details), which may contribute to the higher TSS seen in the swept plots, as well as variation in available pollutant loads between adjacent plots. Of those sites where positive percent removals were found, the highest removal rate was seen at Princess Street with 22-77% removal by the regenerative sweeper, followed by Montana Ave with 65-67% removal by the vacuum sweeper and Lunns Road with 18-52% with the regenerative sweeper. These three sites had the highest unswept TSS concentrations and corroborate the observation in literature that



sweeper efficiency is related to a threshold amount of sediment available on the surface, before any effective removal is observed. Based on the data from this study, results indicate that this threshold may be >300 mg/L for vacuum sweeping and >150 mg/L for regenerative sweeping. See Appendices C and D for further figures and summary data on percent removal analysis.



<span id="page-37-0"></span>*Figure 4-12: Percent removal of TSS (unswept vs swept at 11 mm/hr) over time for all sites*

#### *4.3.2 Zinc and copper*

Zinc and copper removal rates between unswept and swept plots showed largely negative removal rates and the same inconsistency in removal rates as was seen for TSS [\(Figure](#page-38-0)  [4-13\)](#page-38-0). The regenerative sweeper achieved total copper removal rates of 13-41% at Lunns Road and -145-66% at Princess Street, the sites with the highest total copper concentrations. However, the vacuum only achieved positive removal rates in two instances (and only at 10%) across all five sites. The sweepers were similarly successful at reducing total zinc, with the regenerative sweeper achieving 4-43% removal at Lunns Road. The vacuum sweeper had inconsistent performance across the sites for total zinc.





<span id="page-38-0"></span>*Figure 4-13: Percent removal of total copper (top) and total zinc (bottom) (unswept vs swept at 11 mm/hr) over time for all sites*

## **4.4 Correlations between variables**

# *4.4.1 Influence of surface factors: Effect of traffic intensity, land use activities and surface condition on road runoff quality*

Pollutant concentrations were not found to be correlated with traffic intensity as the site with the highest pollutant concentrations had only moderate traffic (5,670 AADT), while the highest trafficked road, Durham Street at with 11,863 AADT, consistently returned some of the lowest pollutant concentrations. However, the two sites with industrial and/or commercial land use, Lunns Road and Princess Street, were found to have the highest pollutant



concentrations. This suggest that for the trialled sites, the traffic type – in the case of the industrial areas, there are more heavy vehicles that deposit proportionally more sediment and heavy metals on the road surface – and sediment-generating activities – construction activities that contributes sediment; air emissions – have a greater influence on the resultant pollutant load than just traffic count. Furthermore, Montana Ave, a low trafficked residential street had high sediment load in one of its unswept plots, indicating that surface roughness and the increased ability to hold sediment in the interstitial spaces when the surface is very coarse may have a greater influence on pollutant load than just traffic count. It should be noted, however, that the two unswept plots completed at Montana Ave showed substantial variation in sediment load and it may therefore be difficult to achieve consistent pollutant reduction benefits on this sort of coarse but low trafficked street as the loading may not always reach a threshold where sweeping is effective. Therefore, future sweeping operation should focus on industrial/commercial areas of the city as a priority, and an increased frequency of sweeping on road sections of coarse chipseal should also be considered.

The higher TSS concentrations in the runoff post-sweeping suggest that the sweepers may be loosening the sediment that has collected on the road surface but the vacuum component of the sweeper is unable to remove all this loosened sediment. Then when rainfall occurs, more sediment is able to be mobilised than would have been possible on the unswept surface. This indicates carry over of pollutants between rain events is an important process to be considered in Christchurch's relatively low intensity rainfall climate. Options to address this via sweeping could be to do repeat sweeping within dry periods to give more opportunity to loosen and remove sediment, particularly for coarse road surfaces. However, further field data of whether multiple sweeps can provide this benefit is recommended, as some studies have concluded that multiple passes did not provide a significant increase in removal rate.

# *4.4.2 Influence of climate factors: Effect of simulated rainfall intensity on road runoff quality*

Contrary to indications from literature, an increased applied rainfall intensity did not always correlate with an increased TSS concentration [\(Figure 4-2\)](#page-27-0) for the same site. However, it was more likely to be observed at the regenerative-swept plots than the vacuum-swept plots. Where it was observed for the regenerative-swept plots (at Durham Street, Princess Street and Sabys Road), there was no consistency as to whether the site produced high or low post-swept TSS concentrations overall, i.e. this phenomenon was not seen to relate to a site's overall TSS concentrations.



## *4.4.3 Observation of first flush phenomenon in road runoff*

A clear first flush phenomenon was observed for all trial plots, at all sites. Intra-event samples show a consistent pattern of highest concentration at the start of each trial, with subsequent samples at t=7 minutes 34-69% of t=0 TSS concentrations and samples at 15 minutes 33-50% of t=0 concentrations. A summary table of first flush ratios is provided in Appendix E.

A stronger first flush effect (as evidenced by later stage concentrations being a lower percentage of the first flush concentration) was found to be correlated with higher rainfall intensity for most sites, for both vacuum-swept and regenerative-swept plots. The sole exceptions were the regenerative-swept plots at Montana Ave and the vacuum-swept plots at Durham Street. However, comparison of the first flush ratios between corresponding unswept and swept plots at 11 mm/hr at each site did not show any consistent reduction or amplification of the first flush effect due to sweeping. Therefore, there is no evidence that street sweeping can reduce first flush effects from road surfaces. However, it should be noted that first flush effects are attenuated with increasing runoff surface area, as the time of concentration varied more widely. Consideration could be given to giving some priority to sweeping operations along road areas nearer the discharge points into the receiving waterway.

## **4.5 Field observations of street sweeping**

Visual observations of street sweeping during each trial day confirmed that the street sweepers were effective at removing gross pollutants and litter from the road surface, kerb and channel. However, the combination of pressured air and water used by the regenerative sweepers sometimes resulted in deposition of a sediment-laden water slurry along the swept area [\(Figure 4-14\)](#page-41-0). Billowing dust was also observed out the back of these sweepers, which could result in additional sediment being deposited on the swept zone prior to trialling. This limitation with regenerative sweepers (slurry deposition and billowing dust) has also been observed previously (Depree, 2011).

Optimisation of street sweeping could therefore include development of Standard Operating Practices (SOPs) to ensure low sweeper speeds are used (this trial was conducted at 5 km/hr), hoppers are regularly cleaned out to reduce carryover between sites or runs and water use is minimised in regenerative sweepers if not needed for picking up gross pollutants or litter.





*Figure 4-14: Dirt streaks on road created by regenerative sweeper*

#### <span id="page-41-0"></span>**4.6 Limitations and assumptions**

As with any data-rich study, there are always limitations stemming from the inability to repeat all experiments. In trialling a diversity of sites, applied intensity and two sweeper types, the dataset for each condition was therefore limited. However, a key objective of these field trials was to provide initial data to guide and prioritise further investigations.

The variation observed for Lunns Road and Montana Ave, where two unswept plots were able to be trialled under different antecedent conditions, demonstrate the large variability in unswept conditions at a single site over time. There will also be spatial variation in available pollutant load that this study was not able to characterise, which may have influenced the lack of pollutant reductions found between unswept and swept plots at many sites. Further replication of unswept conditions would provide a clearer indication of: 1) the extent of spatial variation in a small road area, and 2) the likelihood of unswept TSS concentrations reaching the threshold needed for regenerative or vacuum sweepers to be effective.

For low intensity trials, it took several minutes to accumulate sufficient sample volume for analysis. This means those results are an average for the sample collection period and will



dampen the magnitude of true first flush concentrations. This implies that the initial first flush concentrations feeding into the stormwater pipe network off the road could be substantially higher than concentrations recorded in this study. If the sampling site is close to where the stormwater is discharged into the receiving environment (such as at Lunns Road), this indicates that there could be high contaminant concentrations being passed into the waterway during the initial stages of each rain event with greater adverse impacts than expected (depending on dilution and mixing properties of the discharge relative to the stream). This emphasises the importance of catchpit filters to attenuate any first flush and the need for targeted wet weather receiving environment monitoring.

The tank water from the Christchurch public water supply was found to be elevated in copper or zinc on different occasions: elevated total copper at Montana Ave Day 1 and 2; elevated dissolved copper at Montana Ave and Princess Street; elevated total zinc at Durham Street and Princess Street, and elevated dissolved zinc at Durham Street, Princess Street and Sabys Road. This meant that some copper and zinc road runoff results could not be analysed as the background (applied) concentration exceeded the runoff concentration. As yet, the source of these elevated copper and zinc concentrations has not been identified.

Factors that have been identified as a contributor to street sweeping performance and/or road runoff quality but have not been assessed or isolated via this study's methodology include:

- Spatial variation of available pollutant load across the road area. Previous studies have found that the vast majority of load accumulates in the gutters or within 0.5 m of the road edge (Deletic & Orr, 2005), however, there is little information on the distribution of pollutants along the roadway (i.e. parallel to the kerb), but potential influences would include traffic entering driveways or use of onsite parking.
- Build up rates on different surface types (i.e. how rapidly the steady state between deposition and emission is reached (Amato et al 2010)). Previous studies, such as Kim et al. (2014), have measured daily build up to help determine optimal sweeping frequency. It is likely that scheduling sweeping for at least 72 hours days post-rain will increase the opportunity for the sweeping to pick up higher amounts of accumulated pollutants (Section 2.2.1), however, more knowledge is needed on the build up dynamics and when threshold concentrations for effective sweeping are likely to be reached.
- The effect of road shape on wash off, as reported by Walker et al. (1999)
- Operational methods for each sweeper, including cleaning procedures and running the regenerative sweeper without water



## **5 Conclusions and recommendations**

This study did not find clear evidence of reduced pollutant concentrations between unswept and swept road areas. There was some evidence that regenerative and vacuum sweeping may become effective at built-up sediment concentrations of >150 mg/L and 300 mg/L, respectively. However, the small dataset creates limitations on this conclusion and further study of high build up roads in industrial/commercial areas is recommended to strengthen this conclusion.

Key findings from the data are:

- The highest unswept TSS, zinc and copper concentrations were found at Lunns Road, an industrial road with medium traffic intensity.
- In general, the influencing factors for the highest pollutant loads were considered to industrial/commercial areas (of particular concern in terms of heavy metal concentrations) and road surface roughness (coarse asphalt accumulated more particulates). No correlation was found between unswept traffic intensity and TSS concentration.
- Regenerative sweeping provided consistent benefit (i.e. positive removal rates) where TSS >150 mg/L (two of the five sites), while vacuum swept provided positive removal rates where TSS > 300 mg/L (only one out of the five sites), suggesting there may be a threshold effect where sweeping effectiveness responds to a minimum accumulated amount of particulates.
- Street sweeping should be considered as part of a treatment train for road runoff that includes targeted use of catchpit inserts. If street sweeping can reduce any amount of particulates entering the inserts, it will prolong the efficiency of the inserts as their efficiency significantly reduces once over half full.
- Increased applied rainfall intensity was not found to correlate with increasing TSS concentration for the vacuum-swept trials but was seen for three of the five regenerative-swept sites. There was no correlation to site TSS concentrations (i.e. the three sites observed to have this trend for regenerative-swept plots included two low post-sweeping TSS sites (Durham Street and Princess Street) and one high post-sweeping TSS site (Sabys Road)).
- The coarseness of the PSD was only seen to increase with increasing rainfall intensity at the Lunns Road site.
- The finest unswept PSD was observed at Lunns Road yet this site had the greatest removal – confirming that once there is enough sediment available, sweeping was effective, even if sediment is fine.



- Fine sediment suggests vehicle contributions such as brake dust as a key source, as this has been found to be particularly fine.
- The swept plots were found to be coarser than unswept plots at 3 of the 5 sites. This generally corresponded with sites where swept TSS was lower than unswept, suggesting a range of sizes including fines were being removed by the sweepers.
- Copper was found to be highest at Lunns Road with first flush total copper concentrations of 1,630-3,057 ug/L (8-700 times greater than the other sites). Even with the introduction of copper-free brake pads, the high copper concentrations at Lunns Road indicate management of heavy vehicles' contribution of copper is needed to achieve substantial source reductions of copper.
- Lunns Road also had the highest zinc concentrations, with first flush total zinc concentrations of 1,550-6,148 u/L (2-78 times that of the other sites).
- The dissolved metals proportion is over 300-400 times greater than the relevant receiving environment guideline values, indicating that the road runoff is likely to be causing adverse impacts in the receiving waterways such as Curletts Stream (Lunns Road's receiving waterway).
- The sweepers may be loosening the accumulated sediment but unable to remove it via vacuum, resulting in increased sediment concentrations in the next rain event. Further investigation is recommended into the benefits of multiple sweeper passes within a dry period (not necessarily completed together but across multiple days to ensure adequate build up is reached before each sweep). The results of this study have been unable to provide evidence to direct a certain frequency of sweeping.
- If any preference was to be given to sweeper type, the data indicates regenerative sweepers are more effective at lower TSS concentrations and therefore would provide more pollutant reduction across a greater range of roads.

## **Recommended Future Work**

Further field investigations are recommended into the role of catchpit inserts in removing pollutants. The optimization of street sweeping scheduling should be assessed with consideration given to scheduling of catchpit insert cleaning and identification of priority streets (i.e. industrial/commercial and coarse chipseal residential streets).

Standard Operating Procedures are also a priority for development, to provide consistent guidance to operators on the cleaning of sweeper units, operating speed, use of water, number of passes and sweeping goals for different types of roads. These guidelines can build upon what have been developed elsewhere, including several SOPs developed in the US and local guidance such as Depree (2011). SOPs will also serve as a communication



tool of the science behind effective sweeping procedures, as ultimately the operators are the ones spending the most time out on the roads and can be effective eyes-on-the ground for sweeping and catchpit maintenance needs.

Any future runoff trials should prioritise confirming and characterizing the range of pollutant concentrations and particle size characteristics on industrial roads where there is heavy vehicle traffic. This study's data indicates that these are the roads that contribute the highest sediment and heavy metal concentrations. These field trials should also seek to quantify the variation in unswept and swept runoff quality, in order to confirm the range of unswept runoff that can be found at a single site, indicate how often the sediment concentration thresholds occur where the regenerative and vacuum sweepers were seen to be effective, as well as provide replication of this study's initial swept plots for quality assurance purposes.

Lab-based experimental studies could be undertaken to further evaluate whether sweeper action is loosening sediment without removing it from the surface, leading to higher runoff concentrations from the swept surface. This would guide whether multiple passes should be undertaken as standard procedure.

## **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank the following people for their assistance in this project – UC research assistants: Ehsan Qasemipour, Baptiste Hamon, Thomas Wallace, Lamis Javid, Wilson McNeill, Madeline Furness, Yu Li, Calisa Mcleary, Banujan Baluskandan, Gefeng Zheng, Charlotte Duke, Jacob Northage, Sky Halford and Turin Li; UC Civil and Natural Resources Engineering Technicians: Fabio Cabral Silveira and Aude Thierry (Environmental Lab), Patrick Branje (Workshop), Dave Carney (Electronics) and Nick McLaughlin (Fluids Lab); WasteCo staff for tanker and sweeper operations; Wilsons Traffic Management, in particular Mitch Clinton; UC colleague Tom Cochrane; and Christchurch City Council staff: Florian Risse and Salina Poudyal Dhakal. Particular thanks are also given to Clint Cantrell of SCO Consulting for his invaluable review comments.

This study was funded by Christchurch City Council (Research Grant No. E7764).

## **References**

- Amato, F., Querol, X., Johansson, C., Nagl, C., & Alastuey, A. (2010). A review on the effectiveness of street sweeping, washing and dust suppressants as urban PM control methods. *Science of The Total Environment, 408*(16), 3070-3084.
- American Public Health Association. (2005). *Standard methods for the examination of water and wastewater*.
- Ang, K. B., Baumbach, G., Vogt, U., Reiser, M., Dreger, W., Pesch, P., & Krieck, M. (2008). Street cleaning as PM control method. Better Air Quality, Bangkok, Thailand.



- Breault, R. F., Smith, K. P., & Sorenson, J. R. (2005). *Residential street-dirt accumulation rates and chemical composition, and removal efficiencies by mechanical-and vacuum-type sweepers, New Bedford, Massachusetts, 2003-04* (Vol. 4). US Department of the Interior, US Geological Survey.
- Calabrò, P. (2010). Impact of mechanical street cleaning and rainfall events on the quantity and heavy metals load of street sediments. *Environmental technology, 31*(11), 1255- 1262.
- Chang, Y.-M., Chou, C.-M., Su, K.-T., & Tseng, C.-H. (2005). Effectiveness of street sweeping and washing for controlling ambient TSP. *Atmospheric Environment, 39*(10), 1891-1902.
- Charters, F. J., Cochrane, T. A., & O'Sullivan, A. D. (2015). Particle size distribution variance in untreated urban runoff and its implication on treatment selection. *Water research, 85*, 337-345.
- Charters, F. J., Cochrane, T. A., & O'Sullivan, A. D. (2016). Untreated runoff quality from roof and road surfaces in a low intensity rainfall climate. *Science of The Total Environment, 550*, 265-272.
- Charters, F. J., Cochrane, T. A., & O'Sullivan, A. D. (2021). The influence of urban surface type and characteristics on runoff water quality. *Science of The Total Environment, 755*, 142470-142478.
- Christchurch City Council. (2023). *Traffic counts dashboard*. Retrieved 7 February, 2023, from [https://ccc.govt.nz/transport/improving-our-transport-and-roads/traffic-count](https://ccc.govt.nz/transport/improving-our-transport-and-roads/traffic-count-data/links-traffic-counts-dashboard)[data/links-traffic-counts-dashboard](https://ccc.govt.nz/transport/improving-our-transport-and-roads/traffic-count-data/links-traffic-counts-dashboard)
- Deletic, A. (1998). The first flush load of urban surface runoff. *Water research, 32*(8), 2462- 2470.
- Deletic, A., & Orr, D. W. (2005). Pollution buildup on road surfaces. *Journal of Environmental Engineering, 131*(1), 49-59.
- Depree, C. (2008). *Contaminant characterisation and toxicity of road sweepings and catchpit sediments: Towards more sustainable reuse options* (Land Transport New Zealand Research Report, Issue.
- Depree, C. (2011). *Street sweeping: an effective non-structural Best Management Practice (BMP) for improving stormwater quality in Nelson?* NIWA.
- Duncan, M., Jain, R., Yung, S., & Patterson, R. (1985). *Performance evaluation of an improved street sweeper*. Air Pollution Technology, Inc., San Diego, CA (USA).
- Egodawatta, P., & Goonetilleke, A. (2006). Characteristics of pollutants built-up on residential road surfaces. Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Hydroscience and Engineering: ICHE 2006,
- Egodawatta, P., Thomas, E., & Goonetilleke, A. (2007). Mathematical interpretation of pollutant wash-off from urban road surfaces using simulated rainfall. *Water research, 41*(13), 3025-3031.<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.watres.2007.03.037>
- Environment Canterbury. (2023). *Land and Water Regional Plan*.
- Gastaldini, M. d. C. C., & Silva, A. R. V. (2013). Pollutant distribution on urban surfaces: case study in southern Brazil. *Journal of Environmental Engineering, 139*(2), 269- 276.
- Grottker, M. (1987). Runoff quality from a street with medium traffic loading. *Science of The Total Environment, 59*, 457-466.
- Herngren, L., Goonetilleke, A., & Ayoko, G. A. (2005). Understanding heavy metal and suspended solids relationships in urban stormwater using simulated rainfall. *Journal of Environmental Management, 76*(2), 149-158.
- Hixon, L. F., & Dymond, R. L. (2018). State of the practice: Assessing water quality benefits from street sweeping. *Journal of Sustainable Water in the Built Environment, 4*(3), 04018007.
- Horwatich, J. A., & Bannerman, R. T. (2009). *Pollutant Loading to Stormwater Runoff from Highways: Impact of a Highway Sweeping Program-Phase II, Madison, Wisconsin*.



- Jeong, H., Choi, J. Y., Lee, J., Lim, J., & Ra, K. (2020). Heavy metal pollution by roaddeposited sediments and its contribution to total suspended solids in rainfall runoff from intensive industrial areas. *Environmental Pollution, 265*, 115028.
- Kang, J.-H., Debats, S. R., & Stenstrom, M. K. (2009). Storm-water management using street sweeping. *Journal of Environmental Engineering, 135*(7), 479-489.
- Kayhanian, M., Fruchtman, B. D., Gulliver, J. S., Montanaro, C., Ranieri, E., & Wuertz, S. (2012). Review of highway runoff characteristics: Comparative analysis and universal implications. *Water research, 46*(20), 6609-6624.
- Kim, D.-G., Jeong, K., & Ko, S.-O. (2014). Removal of road deposited sediments by sweeping and its contribution to highway runoff quality in Korea. *Environmental technology, 35*(20), 2546-2555.
- Law, N. L., DiBlasi, K., Ghosh, U., Stack, B., Stewart, S., Belt, K., Pouyat, R., & Welty, C. (2008). Deriving reliable pollutant removal rates for municipal street sweeping and storm drain cleanout programs in the Chesapeake Bay basin. *Center for Urban and Environmental Research and Education*.
- Maniquiz-Redillas, M., & Kim, L.-H. (2014). Fractionation of heavy metals in runoff and discharge of a stormwater management system and its implications for treatment. *Journal of Environmental Sciences, 26*(6), 1214-1222.
- NIWA. (2017). *High Intensity Rainfall Design System Version 4*.<http://hirds.niwa.co.nz/>
- Pitt, R. (1979). *Demonstration of nonpoint pollution abatement through improved street cleaning practices* (Vol. 1). Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development.
- Pitt, R., & Bissonette, P. (1984). *Bellevue urban runoff program: Summary report: Characterizing and controlling urban runoff through street and sewerage cleaning*. EPA/600/S2-85/038.
- Pitt, R., & Shawley, G. (1981). *A demonstration of non-point source pollution management on Castro Valley Creek.* (Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Hayward, CA) for the Nationwide Urban Runoff Program., Issue. USEPA.
- Pitt, R., & Sutherland, R. (1982). Washoe County urban stormwater management program. *Washoe Council of Governments, Reno, NV*.
- Sansalone, J. J., Buchberger, S. G., & Al-Abed, S. R. (1996). Fractionation of heavy metals in pavement runoff. *Science of The Total Environment, 189*, 371-378.
- Sartor, J. D., & Boyd, G. B. (1972). *Water pollution aspects of street surface contaminants* (Vol. 2). US Government Printing Office.
- Sartor, J. D., Boyd, G. B., & Agardy, F. J. (1974). Water pollution aspects of street surface contaminants. *Journal of the Water Pollution Control Federation, 46*(3).
- SCO Consulting. (2022). *Nelson City Council Stormwater Sump Contaminant Management Programme Development*. Report prepared for Nelson City Council.
- SCO Consulting. (2024). *Hamilton City Council Roadways Enhanced Contaminant Reductions Assessment: Summary of inspections, sampling, testing and recommendations to enahnce roadway contaminant removal*. Report prepared for Hamilton City Council.
- Selbig, W. R., & Bannerman, R. T. (2007). *Evaluation of street sweeping as a stormwaterquality-management tool in three residential basins in Madison, Wisconsin*. US Geological Survey Reston, VA, USA.
- SPU (Seattle Public Utilities). (2012). *Program effectiveness report: Street sweeping for water quality*. SPU.
- Sutherland, R. C., & Jelen, S. L. (1997). Contrary to conventional wisdom, street sweeping can be an effective BMP. In *Advances in modeling the management of stormwater impacts* (pp. 179-190). CRC Press.
- Walker, T., Wong, T., & Wootton, R. (1999). *Effectiveness of street sweeping for stormwater pollution control*. CRC for Catchment Hydrology.



- Wang, Q., Zhang, Q., Wang, X. C., Huang, J., & Ge, Y. (2020). Impacts of key factors on heavy metal accumulation in urban road-deposited sediments (RDS): Implications for RDS management. *Chemosphere, 261*, 127786.
- Wicke, D., Cochrane, T. A., & O'Sullivan, A. (2012, Dec). Build-up dynamics of heavy metals deposited on impermeable urban surfaces. *Journal of Environmental Management, 113*, 347-354.



# **Appendix A Summary of field trial conditions**





## **Appendix B Summary runoff quality data**

#### *1. Total Suspended Solids Data*

a. TSS concentration over time for each trials, at each site





b. Comparative first flush TSS concentrations for all trials, across the five sites





## *2. Particle Size Distribution Data*

a) Summary of  $D_{10}$ ,  $D_{50}$  and  $D_{90}$  for each trial, at each site (First flush, t=0)





b) Comparison of unswept plots' PSD across all sites (First flush, t=0)



c) Intra-event variation in  $D_{10}$ ,  $D_{50}$  and  $D_{90}$  at Lunns Road, for trials where intra-event PSD data could be obtained





d) Intra-event variation in D10, D50 and D90 at Sabys Road, for trials where intra-event PSD data could be obtained





e) Cumulative PSDs for each trial, at each site (First flush, t=0)





### f) Frequency PSDs for each trial, at each site (First flush, t=0)





### *3. Copper Data*

a. Raw total copper concentration over time for each trials, at each site





#### b. Raw dissolved copper concentration over time for each trials, at each site





c. Adjusted total and dissolved copper concentration over time for each site where runoff > feed water concentrations (where adjusted concentration = raw – background concentration)









## d. Copper partitioning across all trials for each site (average for site, with bars showing minimum and maximum)





#### *4. Zinc Data*

a. Raw total zinc concentration over time for each trials, at each site





#### b. Raw dissolved zinc concentration over time for each trials, at each site





## c. Adjusted total and dissolved zinc concentration over time for each site where runoff > feed water concentrations (where adjusted concentration = raw - background concentration)











## d. Zinc partitioning across all trials for each site (average for site, with bars showing minimum and maximum)



## **Appendix C Percent removal of pollutants between unswept and swept plots (at 11 mm/hr applied rainfall intensity)**















## **Appendix D Street sweeping performance data from field trials**

### **Table D1: TSS data**



<sup>1</sup> For earlier trials where more frequent sampling was undertaken the t=7 and t=15 values have been taken from the nearest timepoint.

### **Table D2: Total copper data**



Version: Draft





<sup>1</sup>For earlier trials where more frequent sampling was undertaken the t=7 and t=15 values have been taken from the nearest timepoint.

 $2$  nd – indicates no data available as feed water concentrations exceeded the sample concentrations

### **Table D3: Dissolved copper data**



Version: Draft




<sup>1</sup> For earlier trials where more frequent sampling was undertaken the t=7 and t=15 values have been taken from the nearest timepoint.

 $2$  nd – indicates no data available as feed water concentrations exceeded the sample concentrations

### **Table D4: Total zinc data**



Version: Draft



<sup>1</sup> For earlier trials where more frequent sampling was undertaken the t=7 and t=15 values have been taken from the nearest timepoint.

 $2$  nd – indicates no data available as feed water concentrations exceeded the sample concentrations

### **Table D5: Dissolved zinc data**



<sup>1</sup>For earlier trials where more frequent sampling was undertaken the t=7 and t=15 values have been taken from the nearest timepoint.

 $2$  nd – indicates no data available as feed water concentrations exceeded the sample concentrations



## **Appendix E Ratio of first flush to later stage concentrations for total suspended solids**



<sup>1</sup> For earlier trials where more frequent sampling was undertaken the t=7 and t=15 values have been taken from the nearest timepoint.



# **Appendix F International and national road runoff quality data sources**







### **Appendix F References**

Auckland Regional Council. (2010). Development of the Contaminant Load Model (Auckland Regional Council Technical Report TR2010/4, Issue.

Berndtsson, J. C. (2014). Storm water quality of first flush urban runoff in relation to different traffic characteristics. Urban Water Journal, 11(4), 284-296.

Charters, F. J., Cochrane, T. A., Hall, G., & Dele, U. (2020, 26-28 August 2020). Characterising untreated stormwater quality to guide stormwater management planning: A Timaru case study 2020 Stormwater Conference, Proceedings of the 2020 Stormwater Conference, online, New Zealand, 26-28 August 2020.

Charters, F. J., Cochrane, T. A., & O'Sullivan, A. D. (2021). The influence of urban surface type and characteristics on runoff water quality. Science of The Total Environment, 755, 142470-142478.

Dean, C. M., Sansalone, J. J., Cartledge, F. K., & Pardue, J. H. (2005). Influence of hydrology on rainfall-runoff metal element speciation. Journal of Environmental Engineering, 131(4), 632-642.

Drapper, D., Tomlinson, R., & Williams, P. (2000). Pollutant concentrations in road runoff: Southeast Queensland case study. Journal of Environmental Engineering, 126(4), 313-320.

Driscoll, E. D., Shelley, P. E., & Strecker, E. W. (1990). Pollutant loadings and impacts from highway stormwater runoff. Volume III: analytical investigation and research report.

Fassman, E. A., & Blackbourn, S. D. (2011). Road runoff water-quality mitigation by permeable modular concrete pavers. Journal of irrigation and drainage engineering, 137(11), 720-729.

Gan, H., Zhuo, M., Li, D., & Zhou, Y. (2008). Quality characterization and impact assessment of highway runoff in urban and rural area of Guangzhou, China. Environmental monitoring and assessment, 140(1-3), 147-159.

Ghosh, S. P., & Maiti, S. K. (2018). Evaluation of heavy metal contamination in roadside deposited sediments and road surface runoff: a case study. Environmental Earth Sciences, 77, 1-13.

Gnecco, I., Berretta, C., Lanza, L., & La Barbera, P. (2005). Storm water pollution in the urban environment of Genoa, Italy. Atmospheric research, 77(1), 60-73.



Göbel, P., Dierkes, C., & Coldewey, W. (2007). Storm water runoff concentration matrix for urban areas. Journal of contaminant hydrology, 91(1), 26-42.

Han, Y., Lau, S. L., Kayhanian, M., & Stenstrom, M. K. (2006). Characteristics of highway stormwater runoff. Water Environment Research, 78(12), 2377-2388.

Hilliges, R., Endres, M., Tiffert, A., Brenner, E., & Marks, T. (2017). Characterization of road runoff with regard to seasonal variations, particle size distribution and the correlation of fine particles and pollutants. Water Science and Technology, 75(5), 1169-1176.

Huang, J., Du, P., Ao, C., Ho, M., Lei, M., Zhao, D., & Wang, Z. (2007). Multivariate analysis for stormwater quality characteristics identification from different urban surface types in Macau. Bulletin of environmental contamination and toxicology, 79, 650-654.

Kayhanian, M., Suverkropp, C., Ruby, A., & Tsay, K. (2007). Characterization and prediction of highway runoff constituent event mean concentration. Journal of Environmental Management, 85(2), 279-295.

Kim, D.-G., Jeong, K., & Ko, S.-O. (2014). Removal of road deposited sediments by sweeping and its contribution to highway runoff quality in Korea. Environmental technology, 35(20), 2546-2555.

Robertson, A., Armitage, N., & Zuidgeest, M. (2019). Stormwater runoff quality on an urban highway in South Africa. Journal of the South African Institution of Civil Engineering, 61(2), 51-56.

Saijun, Z., Bozhi, R., & Renjian, D. (2010). Study on the Urban Road Runoff Pollution Characteristics in Xiangtan. 2010 International Conference on Digital Manufacturing & Automation,

Selbig, W. R., & Bannerman, R. T. (2007). Evaluation of street sweeping as a stormwaterquality-management tool in three residential basins in Madison, Wisconsin. US Geological Survey Reston, VA, USA.

Trowsdale, S. A., & Simcock, R. (2011). Urban stormwater treatment using bioretention. Journal of hydrology, 397(3), 167-174.

Wu, J., Ren, Y., Wang, X., Wang, X., Chen, L., & Liu, G. (2015). Nitrogen and phosphorus associating with different size suspended solids in roof and road runoff in Beijing, China. Environmental Science and Pollution Research, 22, 15788-15795.



Yufen, R., Xiaoke, W., Zhiyun, O., Hua, Z., Xiaonan, D., & Hong, M. (2008). Stormwater runoff quality from different surfaces in an urban catchment in Beijing, China. Water Environment Research, 80(8), 719-724.