

Court action after landslide hits

ROSE DAVIS

New court action against Auckland Transport is underway to try to stop stormwater pouring from Trig Hill Road and allegedly damaging a property below.

Hobson Terrace landowners Jessica Mead and Anthony Stead suffered a frightening night when a landslide from Trig Hill Road bombarded their caravan with debris during severe rain in March.

A window on their caravan was smashed and they fled at about 4am, fearing that the caravan could be pushed over a retaining wall.

Mead and Stead live in the caravan with their baby, Bella, and two other children, who were away the night of the slip.

On September 22, Mead applied to the Environment Court for an enforcement order to stop Auckland Transport discharging stormwater from Trig Hill Road onto her section.

Mead asked Auckland Transport not to carry out road works on Trig Hill Road above her section, until she was consulted, to ensure the works will prevent further slips onto her property.

On September 28, Auckland Transport started work on a new retaining wall to protect the area above Mead's property from further slips and maintain road



Road works have begun on a major slip above Jessica Mead's property in Onetangi.

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safety, Auckland Transport media manager Mark Hannan said. He would not comment on Mead's case.

The slip hollowed out the ground under Trig Hill Road and reduced it to one lane.

Mead's statement to the court said the slip demolished a carpeted living area covered by an awning beside her caravan and kitchen equipment was smashed

by mud and stones. A building platform and retaining walls were gouged out by "rampaging stormwater", Mead said.

The family "continues to live in fear" while the threat of future slips remains, she said.

Waiheke public sector consultant Pita Rikys is representing Mead and has taken two other cases to the Environment Court, calling for Auckland Transport to

stop discharging water from Hill Road onto properties below.

Charles Graves' and J Ingham's applications for enforcement orders were settled out of court.

Hannan said the new retaining wall will cost about \$161. Auckland Council Hea Waters is working on stormwater catchment plans for Trig Hill Road and other areas of Waiheke.