

Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant project

Key messages – 15.06.26

General messaging

- The new Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant is critical to support growth, strengthen network resilience, and protect the long-term health of the Waikato River.
- It is part of a boundaryless approach to wastewater management across Hamilton, Waikato and Waipaa, and a key investment within IAWAI's \$3 billion capital works programme over the next decade.
- The project has involved a dedicated Kaitiaki Roopuu to ensure mana whenua and iwi are represented at all levels of project decision making, including the selection of the preferred site, return pathway method and location and environmental outcomes. The Kaitiaki Roopuu will continue to play a key decision-making role as the project progresses.

18 June IAWAI Board meeting

- On 18 June, the IAWAI Board will consider several critical decisions to progress the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant (SWWTP) project. Staff recommendations to the Board on these matters include:
 - Adopting the wastewater treatment standards set out in the 2023 Memorandum of Understanding as the minimum standards for IAWAI
 - Adopting the land use and growth assumptions for the Southern and the Pukete Wastewater Treatment Plants.
 - Approving 131 & 139 Raynes Road, Rukuhia as the proposed site for the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant, to enable master planning, designs, consenting and planning approval applications.
 - Confirming the preferred treated wastewater re-entry environment as the Waikato River, noting that the location, form and cultural treatments required to support this re-entry environment are being worked through collaboratively between the Kaitiaki Roopu and the project team.
 - Approving three short-listed treated wastewater re-entry locations to be taken forward for further investigation, development, consideration and evaluation before finalising one of these sites as the preferred location.
 - Approving the use of the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 consenting pathway for all approvals required for the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant, including its construction, designation, operation, discharges, and associated infrastructure and activities.

- These recommendations will be available to the wider community on www.hamilton.govt.nz/swwtp on Tuesday 16 June. We'll share further updates following the Board meeting.

Selecting the Plant location

- In February this year, the Nukuhau Residents Society proposed a new site (known as Site X) to the IAWAI Board.
- In response, IAWAI and Hamilton City Council commissioned a 'like for like' assessment of the site using the same criteria, assumptions, scoring, and weightings as the original assessment of shortlisted sites undertaken between 2022 and 2024. The Kaitiaki Roopuu also re-assessed this option on a like-for-like basis using a cultural framework.
- Both assessments identified 131 and 139 Raynes Road as the most suitable location for the new Plant.

Confirming the re-entry environment

- Following extensive technical and cultural assessments, the recommended treated wastewater re-entry from the Plant to the environment is the Waikato River.
- It was one of three options short-listed which included:
 - Rapid infiltration to land – treated wastewater filters through layers of soil before joining groundwater and the Waikato River, and
 - Re-entry to a tributary of the Waikato River – treated new water discharges to a wetland, stream, and/or tributary before reaching the Waikato River.
- Three re-entry locations have been recommended for short-listing for further investigation, design and consideration ahead of identifying a preferred location.
- The form and function of the re-entry will be co-developed between the Kaitiaki Roopu and the project team.
- Full land discharge was assessed as a potential option at the long-list stage but was not progressed due to the very large land area that would be required.

Next steps for the project

- Work is underway to develop a draft design of the new Plant.
- When the time is right, we'll be coming back to the community to share the draft Plant design and our progress on selecting a preferred location for the return pathway.

Project spokespeople

Organisation	Spokesperson (s)	Responsibility
IAWAI – Flowing Waters	Andrew Parsons	All SWWTP matters
Kaitiaki Roopuu	Menzies Bradley	Cultural matters
Waikato-Tainui	Donna Flavell, Tuku Morgan	Waikato-Tainui involvement
Hamilton City Council	Kevin Strongman, Lance Vervoort	Hamilton City Council involvement
Waipā District Council	Stephanie O’Sullivan, Eeva Liisa Wright	Waipā District Council involvement
Waikato District Council	Craig Hobbs	Defers to IAWAI