



28 August 2025

OIAD-1731

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 24 August 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) of the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry):

Under the Official Information Act 1982, I am requesting the following information regarding the proposed Southern Waikato Wastewater Treatment Plant (SWWTP) and its associated FTA262 fast-track consenting process:

- 1. Copies of all applications, supporting documents, and assessments lodged in relation to the SWWTP under the fast-track process (FTA262).*
- 2. The current status of the FTA262 fast-track application, including whether it has progressed to stage 2b and any decisions made by the Expert Consenting Panel or Ministers.*
- 3. Copies of all correspondence (including reports, or memos) between Waipā District Council, Hamilton City Council, the Ministry for the Environment, and any other government agencies regarding the SWWTP portion of the proposal.*
- 4. Any environmental, cultural, or social impact assessments undertaken or commissioned as part of the SWWTP proposal.*
- 5. All public consultation documents, submissions received, or summaries of community engagement related to the SWWTP.*
- 6. Any legal advice, internal reports, or risk assessments prepared for the council relating to the siting, approval, or operation of the SWWTP.*
- 7. Details of any purchases of land (or options to purchase land) associated with the SWWTP, including cost, location, sales and purchase agreements and ownership details.*

The FTA262 'Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant Service Package' application relates to a previous, now obsolete process, to apply for listing in the (then) Fast-track Approvals Bill.

I am refusing your request in full under section 18(d) of the Act, as all documents relating to application FTA262 are publicly available: <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals/fast-track-projects/metro-wastewater-treatment-plant-service-package>. Please note some information has been withheld in accordance with section 9 of the Act.

This project was not listed in the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA); therefore this application is closed. Because the project was not listed in the FTAA, the applicant may choose to apply for their consents via the standard Resource Management Act 1991 process; choose to apply to be referred by the Minister for Infrastructure and if successful then apply for their substantive consent via the Environmental Protection Authority and an expert panel; or choose to apply via any other consenting pathway that may be available to them.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decisions relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes responses to requests for official information shortly after the response has been sent on our website at: <https://environment.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act-requests/>. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team at: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

Electronically approved by Stephanie Frame

Stephanie Frame

Manager, Delivery

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao