

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications
Submitted on 2024-05-03 14:47:32

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2A

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:
Hamilton City Council

2 Contact person

Contact person name:
Andrew Parsons

3 What is your job title

Job title:
General Manager, Infrastructure and Assets

4 What is your contact email address?

Email:
s 9(2)(a)

5 What is your phone number?

Phone number:
s 9(2)(a)

6 What is your postal address?

Postal address:

Hamilton City Council
s 9(2)(a)

7 Is your address for service different from your postal address?

Yes

Organisation:
Hamilton City Council

Contact person:
Nathanael Savage

Phone number:
s 9(2)(a)

Email address:
s 9(2)(a)

Job title:
Principal Planner, Infrastructure and Assets

Please enter your service address:

Hamilton City Council
Private Bag 3010
Hamilton, 3204

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

File upload:

No file uploaded

Upload file here:

No file uploaded

Do you have a current copy of the relevant Record(s) of Title?

Yes

upload file:

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

ed

Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

Southern WWTP

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Pukete WWTP

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Detail the nature of the applicant's legal interest (if any) in the land on which the project will occur

Please write your answer here:

Securing the necessary designations (via a Notice of Requirement) and relevant consents for the Project does not require a legal interest in the relevant land.

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Pukete WWTP is subject to an existing designation. s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant Service Package

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant Service Package, includes.

- Southern Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant (Southern WWTP); and
- Pukete Wastewater Treatment Plant (Pukete WWTP) Reconsenting and Expansion.

The package consists of two projects:

- Southern WWTP: Obtain designations and resource consents for the construction, operation and maintenance of a new municipal wastewater treatment facility and associated activities (including discharges and process water abstraction) south of Hamilton City.
- Pukete WWTP: Renew and obtain resource consents for the upgrading and continued operation and maintenance of the Pukete Wastewater Treatment

Plant and associated activities (including discharges and process water abstraction) at the northern end of Hamilton City.

This project, alongside the other projects submitted for consideration to fast track (Bulk Wastewater Storage), are all part of a substantive package relating to Councils water supply and wastewater networks. The purpose of the package is twofold; to address existing adverse environmental effects associated with the operation of the three-waters network, and to create development capacity within the three waters network, which is a key enabler of both greenfield and brownfield growth.

The new Southern WWTP and upgraded and expanded Pukete WWTP are key to supporting existing communities and growth and development in the Waikato-Hamilton-Waipaa Metro Area. Over time the plants will provide wastewater services to Taupiri, Hopuhopu, Ngaaruawahia, Horotiu, Te Kowhai, Hamilton City, the Airport Precinct, Tauwhare Pa, areas of Tamahere and Matangi and future growth areas.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

The purpose of the package of projects is to provide an integrated 'best for river' solution for wastewater treatment in the Waikato-Hamilton-Waipaa Metro area. This area has seen and is forecast to continue seeing tremendous growth and development in commercial, industrial, and residential areas. Subsequently, this is placing pressure on existing wastewater services and creating further demand for wastewater treatment and management services.

The Waikato-Hamilton-Waipā Metro Wastewater Detailed Business Case (DBC) project is a collaboration between three councils (Hamilton City, Waipā District and Waikato District) and taangata whenua (including Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Inc) to identify the best future option for managing wastewater for urban communities in the metro area. The work takes a boundary-less approach unconstrained by territorial boundaries. The DBCs are linked to the Futureproof Urban Growth Partnership (between Central Government, future proof councils and Iwi/hapu) and the agreed future growth settlement pattern (discussed in detail later in this application). The DBC's have been approved by the aforementioned parties.

Through the DBCs, the parties have identified preferred wastewater servicing solutions for the Metro area and have worked through how these might be planned for, constructed, and funded. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding confirming the preferred wastewater servicing solutions for the Metro Area, minimum treatment standards, partnership principles and a framework for funding has been entered into by Hamilton City Council, Waikato District Council, Waikato District Council and Te Whakakitenga o Waikato. Both DBC's (Southern Metro Wastewater DBC and Northern Metro Wastewater DBC) and the Memorandum of Understanding the can be requested from Council.

The DBCs have identified the expansion of Pukete WWTP and the development of a Southern WWTP as two key components of the wastewater servicing solution for the Waikato-Hamilton- Waipaa Metro Area.

The Southern WWTP will service the airport precinct and environs, Tauwhare Pa, and future development in the Hamilton South, Rukuhia area. Areas of south Hamilton will also be diverted to the Southern WWTP to relieve pressure on the Hamilton

To achieve the 'best for river' purpose, a high level of treatment will be adopted. Investment objectives include restoration and protection of the Waikato River, enhancement of habitat, cultural connectivity, efficient use of resources, and planning and development of sufficient capacity for growth over the next 100 years.

The upgraded Pukete WWTP is expected to service the majority of Hamilton City and the northern metro communities of Taupiri, Ngaaruawaahia, Horotiu and Te Kowhai.

The project will require obtaining regulatory approvals, detailed design, procurement, construction and operation.

Describe the staging of the project, including the nature and timing of the staging

Please write your answer here:

Southern WWTP

The Southern WWTP is a completely new plant. To deliver this facility requires a full suite of approvals.

s 9(2)(b)(ii) Although timeframes have been included, the next stages of the Southern WWTP project (stage 2, 3) will be developed as and when required, including being bought forward (subject to available funding and demand).

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Pukete WWTP Reconsenting and Expansion

The Pukete WWTP is Hamilton's' existing wastewater treatment plant, already operating to a high level of treatment. The Pukete WWTP has been in

operation since the 1970's and has been subject to a significant amount of investment. Further investment planned in Councils draft 2024-34 LTP.

For the Pukete WWTP, a new resource consent will be given effect to immediately, noting that the actual discharge will be authorised and carried out under the new consent if granted.

- Site Master Planning, concept design and consenting now – 2026.
- Treatment plant upgrade and expansion activities: now – 2038 (details of the staging are provided later in this application).
- Treatment plant upgrades to meet demand.

What are the details of the regime under which approval is being sought?

Please write your answer here:

For the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Notice of Requirement (territorial authority) under the Resource Management Act 1991;
- Resource Consents (territorial authority and regional authority) under the Resource Management Act 1991;
- Certificate of Compliance (territorial authority and regional authority) under the Resource Management Act;
- Wildlife Permits (authorisations) under the Wildlife Act 1953;
- Archaeological Authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014;
- Potentially a Proclamation under Public Works Act 1981.

For the Pukete WWTP Reconsenting and Expansion

- Notice of Requirement – alteration to designation (territorial authority) under the Resource Management Act 1991
- Resource Consents (territorial authority and regional authority) under the Resource Management Act 1991
- Certificate of Compliance (territorial authority and regional authority) under the Resource Management Act 1991
- Approval to change reserve land status under the Reserves Act 1977;
- Archaeological Authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

If you seeking approval under the Resource Management Act, who are the relevant local authorities?

Please write your answer here:

Southern WWTP

- Waipaa District Council (Territorial), and Waikato Regional Council (Regional)

Pukete WWTP Reconsenting and Expansion

- Hamilton City Council (Territorial), and Waikato Regional Council (Regional)

What applications have you already made for approvals on the same or a similar project?

Please write your answer here:

Council have not applied for any approvals for the Southern WWTP under any of the regimes listed in s.10 of the Fast-track Approvals Bill.

Council holds an existing designation and resource consents (including discharges and process water takes) which service the existing Pukete WWTP site. The designation has been reflected in the Hamilton District Plan (or Scheme) since the 1970's. The most recent discharge consent was issued to Council by the Regional Council in 2007.

Is approval required for the project by someone other than the applicant?

s 9(2)

Please explain your answer here:

N/A

If the approval(s) are granted, when do you anticipate construction activities will begin, and be completed?

Please write your answer here:

Southern WWTP

Once approvals have been secured, detailed design and procurement activities for site enabling works, Stage 1 wastewater treatment plant and discharge systems will commence. s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Pukete WWTP Reconsenting and Expansion

For the Pukete WWTP, new resource consents will be given effect to immediately, noting that the actual discharges will be authorised and carried out

under the new consent if granted.

NOTE: Transitional resource consent conditions will be required to provide adequate time for the upgrades to be completed and to enable the risks of.

A phased approach is being taken to the overall design, procurement, construction and commissioning programme. Detailed design and procurement for some upgrades have already occurred and construction commenced. It is expected that these activities will expected occur through to 2038.

Upgrading, expansion and commissioning of the Pukete WWTP requires a programme approach extending over many years. Current capital investment planned over the next 10 years is ~\$450m. This is in part due to the scale of work involved, and the desire to deliver 'just in time' infrastructure capacity. This is also due to the need to manage the operational WWTP and maintain compliance throughout the upgrade process.

For the expansion activities, it is expected that the design and build will be staged throughout the life of a new consent. Actual upgrades will be subject to LTP funding. The current proposed timeframes for some upgrade and expansion activities are as follows:

- Development of new administration and services buildings: 2026-2028
- Installation of fourth Primary Sedimentation Tank: 2024- 2029
- Replace digester and biogas upgrade: 2024 – 2029
- Construction of new discharge outfall: 2026 – 2031
- Bioreactor modifications: 2027 – 2030
- UV system resilience upgrade: 2027 – 2030
- Membrane Bio-reactor – detailed design, enabling works and construction: 2028 – 2035
- Stormwater modifications: 2032 – 2035
- Solids phase 2: thermal hydrolysis and drying: 2036 – 2039

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Detail all consultation undertaken with the persons referred to above. Include a statement explaining how engagement has informed the project.

Please write your answer here:

s 9(2)(b)(ii).

Upload file here:

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Describe any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the land or any part of the land on which the project will occur:

Please write your answer here:

No process has been undertaken under the PWA **s 9(2)(b)(ii)**

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

What treaty settlements apply to the geographical location of the project?

Please write your answer here:

Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 1995

The Waikato Raupatu Deed of Settlement 1995 applies to the region. The deed of Settlement is largely based around events that took place 1863 onwards that relate to land confiscation; an event that has echoed in the hearts, souls and minds of Waikato-Tainui as a tribal entity. The Waikato 'River' Deed of Settlement was a part of the initial Raupatu claim but was carried over for settlement from 1995 until 2010. The attention required to complete the river claim section of the wider Raupatu Act was considered to be a task that required concise and focused attention.

Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010

The Waikato River Deed of Settlement signing (2009) and legislation (2010) heralded a new era of co- management with respects to the Waikato River and its tributaries (lakes, streams, wetlands, lands, waahi tapu and minerals).

The preparation and compilation of the stories and historical accounts that Waikato-Tainui tribal elders provided over 30 years to support the intrinsic value and integrity of the Waikato River was evident when the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) and Judge for Treaty Settlements ruled in favour of Waikato-Tainui treaty claim for the Waikato River. Without prejudice, the historical accounts from Kaumaatua have ensured the return of the Waikato River back to Waikato-Tainui and its tribal benefactors who have fought tirelessly for many years, with many sacrificing their own lives and families to fulfil their roles and responsibilities of kaitiakitanga and stewardship over the domain of Papatuanuku and Ranginui.

Schedule 1 of the Waikato River Settlement Act contains seven key principles. In summary these include:

- Te Mana o Te Awa which requires recognition of the spiritual authority, protective power, and prestige of the river.
- Mana whakahaere which requires recognition of the authority that Waikato Tainui and other Waikato river iwi hold over many generations and the responsibility to maintain the balance and mauri of the river
- Health and wellbeing of the river and relationship of Waikato Tainui to the river
- Co-management including good faith engagement and consensus decision making.
- Integration of management between agencies, entities, local authorities as they relate to the river.
- Treaty of Waitangi principles
- Honour and integrity to commitments made to achieve full, fair and durable settlement of the settlement in relation to the river.

Hamilton City Council and Waikato Tainui signed a Joint Management Agreement (JMA) in 2012 to give effect to the Waikato Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010. While the JMA was in in relation to functions, parties agreed that appropriate weight would be given to matters and documents under the deed of settlement and Waikato River Settlement Act 2010. This included: restoration and settlement to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato river for future generations; the Vision & Strategy (Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato), the integrated river management plan; and the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan (Tai Tumu, Tai Pari Tai Ao).

Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato

Thirteen objectives and twelve strategies for the Waikato River (from Huka falls to Te Puuaha o Waikato) are set out in this document. These relate to restoration and protections of the river, of relationship to the river, integrated management, precautionary approaches, avoidance of accumulative effects, protection of significant sites, fisheries, flora and fauna, ability to swim and take kai, and access, and application of maatauranga Maori and latest scientific methods. This document is currently under review.

Are there any Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 principles or provisions that are relevant to the project?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Are there any identified parcels of Māori land within the project area, marae, and identified wāhi tapu?

No

If yes, what are they?:

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Southern WWTP

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Pukete WWTP

There are no identified parcels of Māori land, marae, and identified wāhi tapu within the project area.

Is the project proposed on any land returned under a Treaty settlement or any identified Māori land described in the ineligibility criteria?

No

Has the applicant has secured the relevant landowners' consent?

s 9(2)

Is the project proposed in any customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or aquaculture settlement area declared under s 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 or identified within an individual iwi settlement?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Has there been an assessment of any effects of the activity on the exercise of a protected customary right?

No

If yes, please explain:

Although an effects assessment on protected customary rights has not been undertaken, we consider the relationship with iwi hapu and their relationship with the river as very important. As identified within the consultation material within this application, mana whenua have been bought along the journey of both of wastewater treatment plants. This engagement has informed decisions made on the Project, and will continue to do so.

Upload your assessment if necessary:

No file uploaded

Section 5: Adverse effects

What are the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment?

Please describe:

Refer attached.

Upload file:

[ISSUE]Attachment_Application for FT - Metro WWTP Servicing Package (NES, NPS and Effects Assessment).pdf was uploaded

Section 6: National policy statements and national environmental standards

What is the general assessment of the project in relation to any relevant national policy statement (including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) and national environmental standard?

Please write your answer here:

Refer attached

File upload:

[ISSUE]Attachment_Application for FT - Metro WWTP Servicing Package (NES, NPS and Effects Assessment).pdf was uploaded

Section 7: Eligibility

Will access to the fast-track process enable the project to be processed in a more timely and cost-efficient way than under normal processes?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

In accordance with the purpose of the Bill, it is considered that once an application was lodged the Project would progress faster and with greater certainty under the current provisions of the Bill as opposed to the current RMA. The Bill offers several advantages, including:

- Public and limited notification is precluded;
- Resourcing to process the application efficiently;
- Comments are invited only from specified persons, with a short timeframe provided for comment;
- Rights to appeal are limited to the High Court on points of law only;
- The timeframes under the Bill are shorter and stricter than that of the RMA, which could be several months (potentially more) in relation to consents, or years in relation to a notice of requirement.

Under the current RMA this Project would be fully publicly notified. This is especially common given the nature of projects relating to wastewater attracting localised opposition. This includes the citing of perceived impacts that are not relevant resource management matters whereas the actual adverse effects are addressed through standards and emerging best practice.

Notification would create significant delays through process and associated timeframes and increases the likelihood of an Environment Court appeal. This creates uncertainty, significantly increased delay risk, which could likely be avoided under the fast-track provisions of the current Bill. If the Project was to be appealed under the fast-track provisions, these appeals would be limited to points of law and only to those who provided comments, the relevant local authorities, and persons who have an interest in the decision greater than that of the general public.

For the applicant, the process as contained in the Bill provides greater certainty of the timing of the granting of the Project in comparison to the RMA. Through this certainty, the applicant is able to ensure the Project can and will be delivered with minimal delays.

Overall, the framework of the Bill to determine a fast-track application presents a far more efficient process which will expedite the process, save unnecessary costs, and provide certainty as an outcome.

What is the impact referring this project will have on the efficient operation of the fast-track process?

Please write your answer here:

The application has been requested to be added to Schedule 2A with Council seeking a 4 year period to lodge to align with Hamilton City Councils draft 10-year plan funding. This timeframe allows flexibility for the management of other fast-track projects so as not to hinder the efficient operation of the fast-track regime.

Has the project been identified as a priority project in a:

Local government plan or strategy

Please explain your answer here:

Both projects have been included as priority projects in a number of different plans and strategies. Namely:

- Futureproof 30 Year Growth Strategy
- Hamilton Draft 2024 – 34 Long Term Plan
- Hamilton City Infrastructure Strategy
- Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy

Urban growth management in the Waikato sub-region has been led by the Future Proof Partnership since 2008.

The Future Proof Partnership and Strategy is a 30-year growth management and implementation plan specific to the Hamilton, Waipā, Waikato and Matamata-Piako sub-region within the context of the broader Hamilton-Auckland Corridor and Hamilton-Waikato Metropolitan areas. The strategy provides a framework to manage growth in a collaborative way for the benefit of the Future Proof sub-region both from a community and a physical perspective.

The first Future Proof Strategy was adopted on 30 June 2009. Embedded within the strategy were density targets for urban areas. The partners then implemented the settlement pattern and density targets in their respective district and regional plans. This occurred throughout the 2010s. The decisions version of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement 2012 embedded the Future Proof settlement pattern and density targets requiring subordinate plans to “give effect” to it.

In the case of Future Proof, the iterations of the strategies have been through extensive consultation processes, including the latest 2022 Future Proof Strategy.

The Hamilton-Waikato Metropolitan Spatial Plan (HWMSP) was a subset of the Future Proof Strategy and part of the government's Urban Growth Agenda. Its purpose was to set a long term, 100-year plan for how the Hamilton-Waikato metropolitan area would accommodate and manage growth over the next century with the aim of creating one of the most liveable places in New Zealand.

The development of the strategy included a wide range of stakeholders from across multiple sectors, public and private, local and central government. The final plan was endorsed by Cabinet in May/June 2020 and approved by the Future Proof Implementation Committee in September 2020.

The plan then informed and was incorporated as part of the revised 2022 Future Proof Strategy, which in turn has been included in the Waikato Regional Policy Statement (WRPS) Change 1 notified on 18 October 2022.

Following the HWMSP, the Future Proof partners identified two key areas of focus to enable the plan to be achieved, being transport and wastewater. Work commenced on preparing business cases: the Hamilton-Waikato Metropolitan Spatial Plan Transport Programme Business Case (MSP Transport PBC), and the Waikato Sub-Regional Three Waters Strategic Business Case. The latter was followed by the Hamilton-Waikato Metropolitan Spatial Plan Southern and Northern Wastewater Business Cases.

The Future Proof land use strategy, combined with the subsequent infrastructure business cases, means that the Waikato sub-region is the only metropolitan centre in New Zealand which has an agreed integrated land use and infrastructure strategy with broad-based approval and ministerial endorsement. This has been heralded as best practice in New Zealand.

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

National significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

The term ‘regionally or nationally significant infrastructure’ generally refers to infrastructure that are critical for the functionality of a region or the nation. Hamilton is New Zealand's fourth largest city, and also has the highest rate of growth of any New Zealand city. With this in mind, it is Council's view that the wastewater network is nationally significant infrastructure, and that the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant Service package proposes to deliver a substantial increase to the capacity of that network.

Both the Southern WWTP and Pukete WWTP projects individually contribute to the Hamilton wastewater network. The Southern WWTP is a key piece of sub-regional strategic wastewater infrastructure that will service the sub-regional catchment of Hamilton South (including the redirection of wastewater from Hillcrest, Riverlea, Glenview, Peacocke), Hamilton Airport and ancillary industrial development, Maatangi and Tamahere. In addition to planned servicing, the Southern WWTP could also service additional growth in the south of Hamilton (including those areas identified in future growth strategies), as well as planned future growth at Hamilton Airport and surrounding emerging industrial land uses which are currently serviced by site specific septic tank systems. The SWWTP is expected to reduce the infrastructure investment needed by individual developments in this catchment, and support growth in Hamilton by providing additional wastewater capacity to accommodate the City's planned growth.

The re-consenting and upgrades proposed at Pukete WWTP seeks to elevate the levels of treatment to a level which gives effect to the ambitions set out in Te Ture Whaimana. The existing wastewater discharge consents expire in 2027. Additional treatment capacity will be developed as part of the upgrades at Pukete, including through the redirection of Hamilton South (which is currently being serviced by Pukete WWTP) to the Southern WWTP. The additional capacity will not only just be used for new growth within and around Hamilton, but provides the opportunity to consider amalgamation of waste water treatment from surrounding townships to the north of the city (Ngaaruwaahia, Taupiri, Horotiu, Hopuhopu, and Te Kowhai).

Will the project:

increase the supply of housing, address housing needs, contribute to a well-functioning urban environment

Please explain your answer here:

As of 2023, the population of Hamilton City was 185,300 people. It's projected that over the next 50 years these numbers will almost double to approximately 310,000 people. This additional population will need to be serviced by additional housing, which will subsequently need additional servicing.

Both the Southern WWTP and upgrades at Pukete WWTP will create additional wastewater treatment capacity, which will be a key enabler of the housing supply growth envisaged over the next 30 years.

The Southern WWTP proposes to service a population equivalent of approx. 78,000 by 2061, but ultimately 200,000 at full capacity. The Pukete WWTP expansion is staged to deliver increased performance and to provide for growth within Hamilton and service the staged connection of Northern Metro communities. The forecast population equivalent to be serviced by Pukete out to 2061 is 425,000

This includes both planned infill at a variety of different densities and typologies, and also greenfield growth where it is strategically appropriate to do so.

The consenting of Pukete WWTP will ensure wastewater services can not only continue to be provided, but also provide for the additional growth anticipated for the city and the northern metro communities. Sufficient wastewater reticulation and treatment capacity is critical to enabling a well-functioning urban environment. Failure to provide capacity will hinder the supply of infrastructure ready housing to address housing needs.

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Council consider that the project will deliver both direct and indirect economic benefit at a significant scale.

As previously mentioned, the delivery of three-waters infrastructure will help deliver on both existing and new investment within the city. Additional industrial and commercial land that will be enabled through additional wastewater treatment capability will increase the number of jobs. An increase of labour productivity can also be expected through increased competition.

The additional land for housing will stimulate economic activity by creating jobs and increasing income and spending. More housing (especially in areas of housing shortages) may drive an increase in population, resulting in a larger workforce and potentially more businesses.

A Waikato Regional Council Report on the Waikato Economy released in 2022 (TR202217) recognises the steady growth of GDP driven by a growing population, the significant contribution of GDP across primary industries, and the role that other sectors play (such as utilities, construction, healthcare and education institutions). Hamilton City plays a key role in support of those sectors and regionally significant industry.

As previously noted there is high growth in the city, homes are projected to double over the next 50 years to around 120,000 homes for about 310,000 people, and the City's \$12 billion economy made up 41% of the Waikato's \$29.5 billion GDP in 2021 and provided 43% of the jobs across our region. The project will be a key enabler of that growth.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The industry in Waikato Region with the highest exports in 2023 was dairy product manufacturing (\$6,358.7m), followed by meat and meat product manufacturing (\$1336.1m) and horticulture and fruit growing (\$359.7m).

A Business Development Capacity Assessment was undertaken as part of Councils obligations under the NPS-UD. This assessment highlighted the likelihood of growth of sectors supporting primary industries within Hamilton City, Waikato District and Waipaa District. These include Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (53% increase), Manufacturing (45% increase) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (28% increase).

To support this industry, additional infrastructure and servicing will be required. This project is one of several put forward for 'fast tracking' that will contribute to the enablement of this growth.

Will the project support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions?

No

Please explain your answer here:

However, Council wish to highlight that both wastewater treatment plants will employ expanded resource recovery processes over time as scale allows.

Will the project support adaptation, resilience, and recovery from natural hazards?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Both the development of the Southern WWTP and Pukete WWTP will create additional resilience of the operation of the wastewater network. Natural hazards which are of primary concern to Hamilton are earthquakes and flooding. Additional investment in wastewater treatment (in this case, an additional WWTP and upgrade to the existing WWTP) will support resilience and recovery if a natural hazard were to occur that impacted the networks operation.

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Although the primary purpose of the project itself is not to address a significant environmental issue, Council considers that the project will effectively address significant environmental concerns by providing increased treatment capacity for growth across the Metro area. The project will also contribute significantly toward achieving Te Ture Whaimana by delivering significant improvements in treated wastewater quality thereby reducing wastewater contaminant loads to the Waikato River.

Delivery of these key enabling projects will also provide for growth and deliver improved resiliency. The Pukete WWTP is the largest municipal wastewater discharge to a freshwater body in New Zealand.

The primary issue is the discharge of untreated wastewater, which significantly harms water and air quality, soil, and public health.

The construction of the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant will increase capacity, preventing environmental degradation caused by ad-hoc proposals for individual package plants / interim 'solutions' servicing separate properties or growth areas.

The proposed metro wastewater service package will consolidate various discharges within Hamilton's sub-region into two single point sources. Both of these sources will treat wastewater to a higher standard than the existing treatment devices serving their original catchments. This approach will enhance the overall quality of wastewater treatment.

Is the project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Wastewater conveyance and treatment is a key enabler of economic growth that existing local and regional strategies are needing to manage. This includes:

- Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan and Implementation Programme
- Future Proof Strategy (2022) currently under review
- Hamilton-Waikato Metropolitan Spatial Plan (2020)
- Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy 2023

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

Pursuant to s.24(3)(d), Council requests that the panel set a timeframe of 4 years for approvals to be lodged. This aligns with both Pukete WWTP intent to operate under s.124 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (Exercise of resource consent while applying for new consent), and timeframes to which Council intend to lodge applications for the Southern WWTP.

Does the project includes an activity which would make it ineligible?

No

If yes, please explain:

Section 8: Climate change and natural hazards

Will the project be affected by climate change and natural hazards?

Yes

If yes, please explain:

Council anticipates that its wastewater discharge activities could be impacted due to the effects of Climate Change and Natural Hazards.

The unpredictability of rainfall events may lead to drought conditions within the Waikato, and by consequence, a reduction of water levels and

assimilation capacity within the Waikato River. As a result, the reasonable mixing zone (as it relates to discharge activities into a waterbody) is significantly increased. In response, Council are seeking to increase their levels of treatment to reduce the reasonable zone of mixing as much as practically possible. This involves the adoption of advance treatment technologies at both the new Southern WWTP, and as part of the expansion of the Pukete WWTP.

As previously described, the development of both the Southern WWTP and Pukete WWTP will enhance the resilience of the wastewater network. Investing more in wastewater treatment, including an additional WWTP and upgrades to the existing one, will bolster the network's resilience and recovery capabilities in the event of a natural hazard.

Section 9: Track record

Please add a summary of all compliance and/or enforcement actions taken against the applicant by any entity with enforcement powers under the Acts referred to in the Bill, and the outcome of those actions.

Please write your answer here:

Hamilton City Council undertakes a self-evaluation of its compliance with the resource consents issued by Waikato Regional Council for three waters activities. The self evaluation is then sent to Regional Council, who then undertake their own audit of Councils activities. Over the three waters activities;

- Water Supply: Council has achieved a high level of compliance/full compliance over the previous ten years for its water take consent for domestic use.
- Stormwater: Over the previous ten years Council has generally achieved partial compliance with its comprehensive stormwater consent, however wishes to highlight several 'low risk non-compliances' and a single 'moderate non-compliance', all of which were obtained over the previous three years.
- Wastewater: Council has generally achieved a high level of compliance with its discharge consent from Pukete WWTP. Over the previous two years council has been audited as meeting a 'low risk non-compliance'.

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

[Redacted content]

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Declaration

Do you acknowledge your submission will be published on environment.govt.nz if required

Yes

By typing your name in the field below you are electronically signing this application form and certifying the information given in this application is true and correct.

Please write your name here:
Nathanael Savage

Important notes