

# Response ID ANON-URZ4-5F74-U

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications  
Submitted on 2024-05-02 21:23:58

## Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2A

### 1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:  
Waikato District Council

### 2 Contact person

Contact person name:  
Nick Johnston

### 3 What is your job title

Job title:  
Advocacy and Investment Advisor

### 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:

Waikato District Council  
Private Bag 544  
Ngaaruawaahia  
3742

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

Yes

Organisation:  
Waikato District Council

Contact person:  
Nick Johnston

Phone number:

s 9(2)(a)

Email address:

s 9(2)(a)

Job title:  
Advovacy and Investment Advisor

Please enter your service address:

Waikato District Council  
15 Galileo Street  
Ngaaruawaahia  
3742

## Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

Huntly Wastewater Treatment Plant, McVie Road, Huntly.

Location and aerial imagery to be supplied in application supplementary material document, to be provided through listedprojects@mfe.govt.nz.

File upload:

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Upload file here:

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

Yes

upload file:

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Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

Waikato District Council

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:

The Huntly Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is located on Council-owned land.

## Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Huntly Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

A major upgrade to the Huntly Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), to support its continued operation and compliance, as well as enabling economic growth in the Huntly area (both industrial and residential) that is currently constrained by limited treatment capacity.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

The purpose of the project is to enable commercial and residential development in the Huntly area (including Ōhinewai) that is currently constrained by the Huntly WWTP's current capacity, as well as ensuring the continued operation and compliance of wastewater treatment for the wider Huntly community. Planning for the Huntly WWTP upgrade has been informed alongside mana whenua and other key stakeholder aspirations to improve performance in anticipation of high compliance requirements.

Objectives:

1. Unlock growth in Huntly area with additional capacity for more industrial connections, including the new large-scale Sleepyhead development in Ōhinewai,
2. Provide for potential servicing of Ngāruawāhia and surrounding rural communities,
3. Position the Huntly WWTP for consent renewal and higher compliance requirements, ahead of the existing resource consent expiring in March 2029,
4. Improve environmental outcomes, with a planned solar and biochar solid stream upgrade reducing plant emissions, and improved seasonal compliance for high-use summer periods,
5. Improve infrastructure resilience – designed to better withstand extreme weather events as well as earthquakes,
6. Support positive outcomes with Te Mana O Te Wai and Te Ture Whaimana (the Waikato River Authority vision and strategy for the Waikato River).

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

Please write your answer here:

Upgrade concept and costing work has been undertaken, with design work currently underway on an interim upgrade to support environmental outcomes, consent compliance and the ongoing operation of the facility.

The full upgrade, including the additional capacity to support new growth commercial and residential growth, is estimated for delivery in three years, subject to consenting timeframes.

Council has already committed almost \$16 million towards an interim upgrade, which involves upgrading the inlet screens, pump station, and power supply. This interim upgrade is expected to be delivered within the next 18 months. Staff will be seeking an additional \$29.4 million from Council in June 2024 to upgrade the oxidation ponds.

In broad strokes, the staging can be described as follows:

1. Pond Upgrade: upgrade oxidation pond to ensure compliance, aligned as the first stage of a total solution. Modular membrane technology ensures we can scale this up to meet anticipated growth requirements in the future.
2. Liquid Stream Upgrade: install a new membrane bioreactor plant to meet growth and improved effluent quality, progressed alongside securing a new discharge consent.
3. A Solids Stream Upgrade: install a small-scale solids processing facility to take advantage of the proven biochar process, enabling the Huntly WWTP to lead as a complete regional treatment solution with circular waste economy.

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

Please write your answer here:

RMA resource consent renewal (consent expires in 2029) and notice of requirement.

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

Please write your answer here:

Waikato District Council (territorial authority)  
Waikato Regional Council (regional council)

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

Please write your answer here:

Included in application supplementary material document to be provided through [listedprojects@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:listedprojects@mfe.govt.nz).

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

Huntly WWTP serves the Huntly area within Waikato District. While some areas within Waikato District have cross-boundary water connections with neighbouring territorial authorities, the Huntly WWTP is located centrally in the District does not require approval from other parties.

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

Please write your answer here:

2023/24 YTD – detailed design work and initial compliance physical works, detailed design on capacity aspects of physical works. Draft Annual Plan consultation includes proposal for additional funding to progress with oxidation pond upgrade.

2024/25 – procurement and site-works commence on initial capital works to address environmental and compliance matters, final funding arrangement with central government for full project capital works, procurement for remaining capital works

2025/26 – capital works (timeframes on capacity aspect of capital works to be determined by timing with central government funding agreement currently underway)

2026/27 – capital works

2027/28 – contingency for capital works, increased capacity operational.

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Initial site works are already underway in preparation for delivery of the Huntly WWTP project outlined in this application, so this is a shovel-ready and in-flight project - albeit the initial site works to prepare for the major stages of project delivery mentioned above. If the approval is granted, Council will progress towards achieving the requirements for an ultimate upgrade, which is driven by economic growth, environmental improvements, and 2029

consent compliance requirements.

Subject to a final funding arrangement and the final consenting timeframes, the upgrade itself is estimated for delivery in three years. As the application process for fast tracking precedes the finalised discussions with central government for key infrastructure investment, we are applying now to ensure that if the final funding arrangement between local and central government is signed-off this year, construction work can take place as soon as possible.

### Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

- Waikato-Tainui
- Waikato Raupatu River Trust (Treaty settlement entity of Waikato-Tainui)
- Waikato River Authority
- Waters Governance Board (overseeing Council's contract with Watercare Waikato)
- Waikato Regional Council
- Waikato District Council and Huntly Community Board (elected representatives)
- Residents and property owners in Huntly, and ratepayers of Waikato District

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:

Waikato-Tainui and treaty settlement entities

Waikato District's area of responsibility sits across the majority of the traditional rohe of Waikato iwi (also referred to as Waikato-Tainui). Waikato is a tribal confederation that takes its name from Te Awa o Waikato. The Waikato iwi is one of the major groups descended from the voyagers of the Tainui waka, with 68 marae associated with 33 hapū. 39 of the 68 marae are located within Waikato District's boundaries. The unifying korowai for Waikato-Tainui is the Kīngitanga – the movement established in 1858 to unite tribes to cease the sale of land to Pākehā, to stop inter-tribal warfare, and to provide a springboard for the preservation of Māori culture in the face of Pākehā colonisation. The seventh and current monarch is Kīngi Tuheitia.

The governance body for the collective interests and assets of Waikato-Tainui is Te Whakakitenga o Waikato, the tribal parliament comprising two elected representatives from each of the 68 marae. The executive committee Te Arataura (comprising 10 representatives of the parliament and one appointee of Kīngi Tuheitia) directly oversees the tribe's operational activities.

The Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 1995 gave effect to certain provisions in the Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Waikato-Tainui, and settled certain raupatu claims made to the Waitangi Tribunal. However, the Act excluded certain historical claims including the claim to the Waikato River.

In a later revised deed in 2009, Waikato-Tainui and the Crown reached agreement on the terms of a settlement that would enable co-management of the Waikato River with an overarching purpose to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations.

The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 gave effect to the settlement of raupatu claims under the 2009 deed, as well as formalising the establishing of the Waikato River Authority and providing the co-management arrangements for the Waikato River.

Waikato District Council and Waikato-Tainui have a joint management agreement (JMA) to co-manage the Waikato River, to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the river, and to provide an enhanced relationship between the parties on areas of common interest. A Joint Committee of the Waikato Raupatu River Trust (representing Waikato-Tainui) and Waikato District Council is responsible for implementing the schedules of the JMA and provides a framework for Waikato-Tainui and Council working in partnership. The Joint Committee receives updates on the Waters Capital Works Programme, Three Waters Reform, and oversees the Joint Strategic Work Programme between Waikato-Tainui and Council. Consultation regarding capital works such as the Huntly WWTP are standard recurring agenda items for all Joint Committee meetings. Agendas and minutes for the Joint Committee meetings are available on the Waikato District Council website.

Since 2019, Watercare Waikato has been contracted to deliver all drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services within Waikato District, with Council retaining ownership of the assets. An independent body, the Waters Governance Board, is responsible for managing the performance of Waikato District's water services. Led by independent chairperson David Wright, board membership includes Rukumoana Schaaflhausen (former chairperson of Waikato-Tainui's executive board Te Arataura), Jackie Collier (current deputy chairperson of Waikato-Tainui's executive board Te Arataura), Garth Dibley (Chief Executive of WEL Networks) and Gavin Ion (Chief Executive of Waikato District Council). The contract with Watercare Waikato ends on 30 June 2026, with the next two financial years being a transitional period allowing time for a smooth transition for the delivery of all capital works and operational services.

The Waikato River Authority (WRA) is another key organisation, established following the passing of the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010. The WRA is a statutory body with ten board members appointed by the river iwi and Ministers of the Crown. The key purpose of the WRA is to promote an integrated, holistic and co-ordinated approach to the implementation of the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River (which is set in WRA's primary direction setting document 'Te Ture Whaimana'), as well as the management of the Waikato River, including its tributaries, associated lakes and wetlands within the catchment. WRA is aware of the existing resource consent that is set to expire in March 2029, as well as Council's plans for upgrading the plant and supporting the vision and strategy of Te Ture Whaimana.

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#### Waikato Regional Council

Waikato Regional Council's rohe covers the entirety of Waikato District. In relation to the Huntly WWTP project, Waikato Regional Council is a key stakeholder in its role of managing the use of natural resources, as well as protecting and restoring natural biodiversity.

Consent renewal and compliance is one of the key strategic drivers of the project. As such, Waikato Regional Council has been informed on planning and progress, and will continue to be involved throughout the final stages of design, procurement and delivery. This project is taking successes from other technological advances we have made in the district, which has helped Council achieve compliance at Meremere WWTP and Te Kauwhata WWTP.

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#### Waikato District local governance

Residents and ratepayers in Huntly are represented at a district-level in two Council wards – the Huntly General Ward and Tai Raro Takiwaa Maaori Ward. In the current triennium, Huntly General Ward is represented by Councillor David Whyte and Tai Raro Takiwaa Maaori Ward is represented by Paaniora Matatahi-Poutapu.

Huntly residents and ratepayers, as well as the wider Waikato District, have been consulted on the Huntly WWTP project as part of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan, and consultation has recently closed on the 2024/2025 Draft Enhanced Annual Plan (rationale on why Council is conducting an Annual Plan in 2024 instead of a LTP is covered in Section 7). The Draft Enhanced Annual Plan 2024 highlights the Huntly WWTP as a priority project that needs to be brought forward and fast-tracked. Hearings on the Draft Annual Plan are being held in May, with the Annual Plan 2024 being finalised in June 2024.

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#### Future Proof partners

Future Proof is a partnership project to consider growth and development in the high-growth sub-region comprising Waikato District, Hamilton City, Waipā District and Matamata-Piako District.

The Future Proof partner organisations are Ngā Karu Atua o te Waka, Waikato-Tainui, Tainui Waka Alliance, Waikato Regional Council, Waipa District Council, Waikato District Council, Hamilton City Council, Matamata Piako District Council, and Waka Kotahi. For matters covering the Hamilton-Auckland Corridor, the partnership is expanded to include the Government, Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Forum and Auckland Council.

The Future Proof sub-regional entity partners are aware of the need for the upgrade of the WWTP as both Huntly and Ōhinewai are key growth and development areas identified in the Future Development Strategy for the sub-region.

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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:

Waikato District Council as a territorial authority was established in 1989, and since the transfer of council land and assets from the previous Huntly Borough Council, there have been no processes have been undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the land on which the project will occur.

#### Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

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

Please write your answer here:

No treaty settlements apply to the geographic location of the project. However, the Huntly WWTP is connected to the Waikato River. Information on the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 is provided in Section 3.

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?:

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?

Yes

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?:

While the project site is not in a protected customary rights area, the Huntly WWTP is connected to the Waikato River, for which Waikato-Tainui has customary rights. Details on the settlements and co-management of the Waikato River is covered in Section 3.

Council is committed to Te Ture Whaimana, the vision and strategy for the Waikato River, and the principles of Te Mana o Te Wai, which recognises mauri and mana of freshwater. Council acknowledges Waikato Te Awa as a living being, a tupuna, a taonga and the mauri of Waikato-Tainui.

Upgrading the plant to provide a high-quality discharge and improving river conditions is aligned with the aforementioned considerations. This has been a consistent position throughout the discharge consent application process.

Moreover, commencing with a treatment plant upgrade is aligned with the aspirations for the catchment, and delivers an effective solution in stages. Improving treatment performance reduces adverse environmental impacts. Providing a healthier natural environment offers security to iwi and hapū.

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

Yes

If yes, please explain:

The Huntly WWTP upgrade will support improved outcomes for water quality in the Waikato River, in which Waikato-Tainui have protected customary rights.

Discharge of current treated wastewater from the Huntly WWTP into the Waikato River is monitored by Waikato Regional Council. Key objectives for the upgrade project include improved seasonal compliance for high-user summer periods, as well as improved infrastructure resilience which is critical to ensure wastewater is treated and meeting compliance requirements before discharge into the Waikato River.

Upload your assessment if necessary:

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## Section 5: Adverse effects

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

Please describe:

No known adverse effects on the environment as a result of the completed project. However, Council is conscious of geotechnical considerations for the Huntly WWTP upgrade due to historic mining excavation in Huntly, and the challenges this can create for large scale physical works. During the planning process, one point was identified that could have potential subsidence risks and alternative arrangements have been progressed to avoid this. Through the completion of the Huntly WWTP upgrade, the site can be improved to achieve both earthquake resilience as well as infill above the 1/100-year flood level.

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## 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:

There is a high degree of alignment with the Huntly WWTP project outcomes and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020, as meeting higher compliance standards remains one of the primary objectives of the project. Within the Huntly WWTP, work has been segmented to first address compliance issues and environmental health matters before addressing the capacity issues that is preventing commercial and industrial growth. This is congruent with the hierarchical obligations of Te Mana o Te Wai.

As highlighted in Section 3 and 4, Council's approach to working in partnership with iwi on co-management of the Waikato River and ongoing updates and consultation on capital works and operational management of three waters infrastructure is well aligned with the Freshwater NPS's requirements for freshwater management in a way that gives effect to 'Te Mana o te Wai' through the involvement of tangata whenua, and its stated hierarchy that prioritises the health and wellbeing of water bodies, then the essential needs of people (including access to healthy drinking water), followed by other uses that provides for people and communities social, economic and cultural well-being). Council recognises and supports the concept of Te Mana o te Wai, the six principles that it encompasses: mana whakahaere, kaitiakitanga, manaakitanga, governance, stewardship, and care and respect.

The growth of Huntly and Ōhinewai, enabled through increased treatment capacity, will also be in support of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development.

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## 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:

Yes – given the high priority nature and the project and the high cost of the capital works required (\$110 million, with a medium-high degree of confidence in cost estimate, AACE Class 4 estimate -15%/+25%), Council is requesting fast-track status that will not only reduce timeframes for project completion but also potentially provides some cost-efficiency savings.

Council is conscious of the need for public involvement and consultation on all major capital works infrastructure investment in Waikato District. With fast-tracked applications potentially bypassing consultative aspects of consenting process, Council is comfortable with this 'trade-off' given the high level of engagement over the past four years with residents and ratepayers (through the 2021-31 Long Term Plan and 2024 Enhanced Annual Plan) and with our key stakeholders and iwi partners (through the Treaty settlement framework for co-management of the Waikato River and Joint Committee between Waikato-Tainui and Council). Council is confident that there is a high degree of understanding about the current constraints and compliance risks with the current wastewater treatment plant, necessitating the Huntly WWTP project to be fast-tracked in the most timely and cost-efficient way.

Like most territorial authorities across New Zealand, Waikato District is considering a significant rates increase in the 2024 Draft Annual Plan (to be finalised in June 2024). The Huntly WWTP is one of the contributing factors in this increase due to the proposal for the project budget to be brought forward from 2027/28 (as budgeted in the 2021 LTP) into the 2024/25 FY to start work addressing the environmental and compliance aspects of the Huntly WWTP project.

With a resident population of 88,900 but a geographic area like the size of the Auckland Council area, Waikato District does not have the same economies of scale as some of the other high-growth cities/districts. It is for this reason that it is important for Council to seek fast-tracking opportunities that can provide cost-efficiency outcomes, especially if we are confident that our ongoing community and stakeholder engagement mitigates some of the risks regarding consultation in a fast-tracked process.

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

Please write your answer here:

This project is put forward for consideration as a listed project in Schedule 2 Part A, and is ready to support officials or the independent Fast-Track Projects Advisory Group as required. Contact information can be requested by officials for any of the people or organisations mentioned in this application, to seek comment or to independently verify any information. While we note that Step 3 of the Listed Projects process is not a substantive assessment, Council is able to support with any further information or questions in a timely manner.

If the application was referred, Council is ready to work with the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Regional Development, as well as ministerial advisor and officials, to work through the steps of the referral stage in a swift manner. Regarding Step 2 of the referral stage, in which Ministers may seek comments from certain groups (including others Ministers, Māori groups, local government), Council will promptly assist in providing contact information to any of the people or organisations mentioned in this application, or any other requests that support the Ministers (and their ministerial staff) to seek comment on the application and to independently verify the information provided (especially in relation to Section 3 and 4).

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

Local government plan or strategy

Please explain your answer here:

Yes – it is identified as a priority project in Waikato District Council's 2021-31 Long Term Plan. At the start of 2024, Council accepted the Government's offer to delay the upcoming LTP by one year to allow more time for certainty on the Government's plans for Local Water Done Well. Therefore, Council is undertaking an annual plan for 2024/25, and an LTP next financial year.

In Council's Draft Enhanced Annual Plan for 2024/25, one of the major changes that is highlighted is the Huntly WWTP. In the previous LTP, work was

planned for 2027/28 but due to the high priority and urgency of the project, it is proposed to be brought forward for 2024/25. The consultation process for the Draft Annual Plan 2024/25 closed on 26 April, with hearings held in May and a final plan to be adopted in June 2024.

There is a high degree of alignment between the outcomes of the Huntly WWTP project and the strategic objectives of Te Ture Whaimana and Te Mana o te Wai.

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Regional significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

The Huntly WWTP upgrade is a project of regional significance due to the significant economic benefits of the project. The Huntly WWTP was identified as one of the regionally significant projects within the Future Proof Sub-Region (the high growth sub-region of Waikato Region that covers Waikato District, Hamilton City, Waipā District and Matamata-Piako District). Further information on this is provided below under significant economic benefits.

Will the project:

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

Please explain your answer here:

Completion of the Huntly WWTP project will address the main bottleneck for larger scale housing developments in the Huntly area. The project will address housing needs and contribute to a well-functioning urban environment. The project provides the essential infrastructure to enable an increase in the supply of housing.

There is a longer-term opportunity for Ngāruawāhia and surrounding communities within the Central District Wastewater Scheme to connect and be serviced by an advance technology plant, supporting further growth in Waikato District. However, a connection between the Huntly Wastewater Scheme and the Central District Wastewater Scheme is outside the scope of this project, and this potential solution for future capacity considerations in Ngāruawāhia would need to be assessed alongside all other treatment options in the sub-region.

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Yes – the increased capacity will enable the next stages of the Sleepyhead Estate development in Ōhinewai to commence (located immediately north of Huntly and serviced by the same waters infrastructure). The full \$1.2 billion development is estimated to create 2,600 new jobs. Recent media coverage on the Sleepyhead development and the Huntly WWTP (<https://www.waikatotimes.co.nz/nz-news/350260519/waikato-district-council-working-sort-huntly-wastewater-plant>) has highlighted both the current capacity issues, as well as the remaining stages of the development that cannot take place until the Huntly WWTP is upgraded.

The Sleepyhead Estate development alone has been considered a project that will deliver significant economic benefits to the Huntly and Ōhinewai community, as well as the wider Waikato District. It is important to note that while one of the potential benefactors of increased capacity is an individual commercial entity, the developer is financially contributing towards the impact on local waters and roading infrastructure through a Development Agreement with Council. This, however, does not cover the full cost of the required Huntly WWTP upgrade for other matters such as compliance with higher water quality standards in recent years.

The Huntly WWTP upgrade will enable new development within Huntly and Ōhinewai for commercial and industrial operations that are constrained by the current capacity. Manufacturing plays a major role within the area that is serviced by the Huntly WWTP. In the last two years, manufacturing been the top contributor to economic growth and the top employment creating industry in Waikato District.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Within the area serviced by the Huntly WWTP, economic growth enabled as a result of the Huntly WWTP upgrade is likely to be secondary sector growth - manufacturing, construction, processing operations, rather than primary industries and aquaculture.

Primary industries play a major role in the Waikato District economy (22.7% in 2023, compared to 5.7% nationwide), with Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing being the largest ANZSIC Level 1 category in the District. However, these primary industries are predominately located outside of the area serviced by the Huntly WWTP and the other water service areas in Waikato District, the vast majority of which cover the urban communities within Hamilton to Auckland corridor.

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?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Waikato District's Climate Response and Resilience Strategy 2023-2027 sets a target for Council to support a reduction in district emissions by 25% by 2030, as well as reducing organisational emissions by 50% by 2030.

The planned solar upgrade and biochar solid stream upgrade will reduce emissions and will have a net carbon negative process. These upgrades will help Council leverage a Waste-to-X opportunity and implement circular economy practices. At the behest of industry developments, technological advancements, and best engineering practice, the Huntly WWTP upgrade and discharge design will fully accommodate climate response and resilience matters.

A critical consideration for the 35-year consenting horizon is the increased frequency of weather events and the likelihood of increasingly dry summers. Proposed upgrades will be designed to cater for security as water remains an increasingly precious resource. As an example, pursuant to the liquid stream upgrade, the existing ponds will be retained to assuage wastewater overflows in severe storm events.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Infrastructure resilience has been a focus for Waikato District in recent years, as Council has worked through the recovery period in the aftermath of the Auckland Anniversary Weekend Severe Weather Event and Cyclone Gabrielle, which primarily impacted the northern communities of Waikato District. The Huntly WWTP project has been designed so that the wastewater treatment infrastructure is able to better withstand extreme weather events, as well as ground improvements to increase earthquake resilience. Infrastructure resilience is a major area of focus in Council's Climate Response and Resilience Strategy 2023 as well as in the Draft Enhanced Annual Plan 2024/25.

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The project will support improved outcomes for water quality in the Waikato River by giving effect to Tu Ture Whaimana, as the upgraded wastewater treatment infrastructure will improve compliance on water quality standards, especially seasonal compliance for high-user summer periods. The project will result in more resilient wastewater treatment infrastructure, which in turn mitigates the risks of non-compliant discharge of wastewater into the Waikato River during or in the aftermath of severe weather events or earthquakes.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The project has been planned in accordance with all local planning documents. Strategic alignment with regional strategy and policy documents of our key partners and stakeholders are highlighted in Sections 3 and 4.

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

Contact information for people and organisations referenced in this application have not been included, as all applications are to be publicly listed on the MfE website. Council is able to assist with any questions from officials or to provide contact information directly to allow independent verification of information included in the application.

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?

No

If yes, please explain:

No – however, the Huntly WWTP has higher risks of being affected by severe weather events and natural hazards in its current operational state. A timely fast-tracked process to complete the Huntly WWTP will mitigate and minimise these risks. As aforementioned, the design of the plant takes climate change, especially storm events, into account. With reference to climate hazards, geotechnical factors related to earthquakes and subsidence are critical design factors.

## 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:

Included in application supplementary material document to be provided through [listedprojects@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:listedprojects@mfe.govt.nz).

Load your file here:

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## Declaration

Do you acknowledge your submission will be published on [environment.govt.nz](http://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:

Nick Johnston

Important notes