

Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant

Community e-newsletter update

Edition 2: December 2025

Kia ora

Welcome to the second project update for the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant project. You are receiving this email because you have signed up to our project e-newsletter.

In this edition, you'll find:

- a look behind the scenes
- an overview of the community information sessions
- treated wastewater discharge options, and
- an invitation to visit the Raglan Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Information Sessions

On 5 and 6 November, we held our first community information sessions.

A big thank you to everyone who came along. You arrived ready to share your thoughts and ideas, and your insights about your neighbourhood and community were invaluable.

These sessions were an excellent opportunity for us to meet you, introduce our team, and share information about the project such as the high treatment standards being adopted, how effects like odour and noise are mitigated, and answer any questions or concerns.

We were pleased to see strong interest in the project, with about 65 people attending our first session and about 80 at our second session. The project team appreciated the opportunity to listen to those who attended, and share in some insightful conversations.

If you couldn't attend the sessions, don't worry, these were just the first of many opportunities to connect with us as the project progresses.

Staff speak with residents at the community information sessions.

Let's talk about wastewater discharge

One of the key areas our technical team have been considering is how highly treated wastewater will be discharged from the Plant.

Our team, together with the Kaitiaki Roopuu, recently held an optioneering workshop to review and assess short-listed discharge methods and locations.

No decision has been made yet, but the three options currently being considered include:

- Rapid infiltration to land - treated wastewater filters through layers of soil before joining groundwater and the Waikato River.
- Discharge to the Waikato River - treated wastewater flows directly into the river through a bankside structure.
- Discharge to a tributary of the Waikato River - treated wastewater discharges to a stream or tributary before reaching the Waikato River.

While these broad options have been short-listed, the feasibility of each option, potential location and what they might look like has yet to be developed. The final approach may involve one or a combination of these options.

How will the location of the wastewater discharge be selected?

To determine how and where treated wastewater will be discharged from the Plant, we'll undertake further investigations to assess the feasibility of each option and identify any potential short- and long-term environmental effects.

Potential discharge locations will be assessed using criteria including:

- how easily the location can be accessed and how close the location is to the SWWTP site
- whether there is any land available to construct infrastructure such as an access road
- how the land is used (e.g. is it public/ private)
- The presence of waahi tapu or culturally significant sites
- the disturbance of native flora or fauna habitat
- how stable and/or steep the riverbank is, and
- how easily could a discharge point be constructed and maintained.

We'll continue working with the Kaitiaki Roopuu, our project partners, and key stakeholders to explore what each option might look like and how it might function, and we'll keep you updated throughout the process.

We will also be coming back to the community in the new year to have further conversations about the options we are considering.



Join us for a visit to the Raglan Wastewater Treatment Plant

Many attendees to our information sessions expressed interest in visiting Raglan's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

These visits will offer an opportunity to see how a modern wastewater treatment plant operates, what it smells and sounds like, how it fits into its surroundings and its size (*which is similar to what we expect for the first stage of the Southern WWTP*).

If you are interested in joining us for a tour of this facility, please share your details with us via this [link](#).

If there is enough interest, we'll look to run one or several tours in early 2026.

Keep an eye out for more information about this.



Raglan Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Southern WWTP is expected to serve areas of Waipa, Hamilton and Waikato in the future. Waipa District Council, together with Waikato Waters Limited, continues to work alongside IAWAI, Hamilton City Council, mana whenua, Waikato-Tainui and Waikato District Council to support the development and delivery of the Southern WWTP project.

A look back

Over the past four months, the project team has been busy working alongside our project partners to carry out a background review process.

This is where we look at:

- future demand for wastewater treatment services
- where that demand is likely to be
- how demand is likely to grow over time
- what land is used for now, and
- whether this is likely to change in the future.

Understanding this information is critical to the next stages of the project which include the design of the Plant and wider site, the location of the wastewater discharge site, what it looks like and how it functions, how the Plant will develop over time, and how we approach aspects of the project such as consenting.

Have a safe holiday, and we will see you next year!

This is our final update for the year, and we would like to take the opportunity to wish you a Meri Kirihimete and a happy New Year.

We'll be in touch in early 2026 after a welcome break for our project team and their families.

Ngaa mihi

The Project Team

Find out more



[Southern wastewater treatment plant/Hamilton City Council](#)



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