

Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant

Community e-newsletter update

Edition 4: August 2026

Kia ora

Welcome to the fourth project update for the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant (SWWTP) Project. You are receiving this because you have signed up to our newsletter.

This is an important edition, as we're able to update you on a number of key decisions made by the IAWAI - Flowing Waters Board.

In this edition, you'll find information about:

- the 18 June 2026 IAWAI Board meeting, and
- what's coming up.

IAWAI - Flowing Waters board meeting update

At its June meeting, the IAWAI Board made a number of key decisions about the SWWTP including to:

- adopt the wastewater treatment standards set out in the 2023 Memorandum of Understanding as the minimum standards for IAWAI
- adopt the land use and growth assumptions for the Southern and the Pukete Wastewater Treatment Plants
- approve 131 and 139 Raynes Road, Rukuhia as the proposed site for the SWWTP, allowing master planning, designs, consenting and planning approval applications to begin
- confirm the Waikato River as the preferred re-entry environment for treated wastewater, noting that the specific location, form, and cultural treatments are being worked through collaboratively with the Kaitiaki Roopuu and the project team
- approve three short-listed treated wastewater re-entry locations to be taken forward for further investigation, development, consideration and evaluation, and



- approve the use of the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 consenting pathway for all approvals required for the SWWTP.

The IAWAI Board also directed that key project milestones, including decisions on treated wastewater re-entry arrangements and the final consent application, be brought back to the Board for approval. The Board also requested that opportunities for water reuse continue to be explored and that staff continue to engage with stakeholders on a proactive, no surprise basis.

The Board papers are available on Hamilton City Council's website: hamilton.govt.nz/swwtp



The Southern WWTP is an IAWAI - Flowing Waters led project. Overtime, it is expected to serve areas of Waipā, Hamilton and Waikato Districts. Waipā 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.

What's coming up?

Now these significant decisions have been made, the project team will continue progressing the draft Plant design, treated wastewater re-entry design and site master plan. This includes:

- planning how the project will be staged over time
- developing what the Plant will look like and how it will operate, and
- assessing the short-list re-entry locations against engineering, cultural, and environmental standards to identify the exact location where treated wastewater will be re-entered into the Waikato River and what this will look like.

We'll be coming back to the community later this year to share the draft Plant design, information about the re-entry process, and seeking community input on how the buffer area surrounding the Plant site could be used.

The buffer area surrounding the plant is large, with potential for features such as native planting, wetland restoration, and possible community amenities like walking and cycling paths.

During this time, there will be opportunities to speak face-to-face with our project team and to provide your feedback online.

We will continue to keep you updated as we progress with this important project.

Ngaa mihi

The Project Team

Find out more



[Southern wastewater treatment plant/Hamilton City Council](https://www.hamiltoncity.govt.nz/swwtp/)



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