

# Submission form

## Notice of submission under the Resource Management Act 1991 (pursuant to section 96) form 13

### Notes

- A signature is not required if you are lodging your submission by electronic means.
- If you are making a submission to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) please use form 16B. Refer to the EPA website [www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz) or call 0800 CALL EPA (22 55 372).
- The closing date for providing your submission to Waikato Regional Council is 20 working days after public notification or notice is served. You must also provide a copy of your submission to the applicant. This should be done as soon as possible.
- If you need any further help, please phone our Resource Use staff on **0800 800 402**.
- You can send your submission by:
  - Post: Waikato Regional Council, Private Bag 3038, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240
  - Fax: 07 859 0998
  - Email: [RCsubmissions@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:RCsubmissions@waikatoregion.govt.nz)

### Office use only

File no:  
Consent no:

### Section 1: Application details

**Applicant name:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Description of proposal:

(Briefly describe the type of consent, and the nature and location of the activity. If the proposal is for a change or cancellation of an existing consent condition, please detail the type and location of consent, the relevant condition and the proposed change. If the application is for a transfer of a water or discharge permit, provide details of the existing activity site and, if relevant, the part of the permit proposed to be transferred.)

The specific parts of the application that this submission relates to are:

### Section 2: Submitter details

**We will use your email address as preferred address for service, unless you advise otherwise.**

<b>Name</b>	Full name of submitter:	
	Contact person (include designation if applicable):	
<b>Postal address</b>	Street/RD/PO Box/Private Bag:	
	Suburb:	
	Town/city:	
	Postcode:	
<b>Residential address</b> If different from postal address	Street:	
	Suburb:	
	Town/city:	
	Postcode:	
<b>Email address</b>		
<b>Phone number/s</b>	Home:	Business:
	Mobile:	Fax:

**Section 3: Submission on proposal**

Please detail your submission below. Attach additional pages if necessary.

I/we (tick one option only):

- Support the application/s
- Oppose the application/s
- Neither support nor oppose the application/s (neutral submission)

My submission:

The reasons for my views are:

I seek the following decision from the consent authority:

(Give precise details, including the parts of the application you wish to have amended and the general nature of any conditions sought.)


Please tick either yes or no to the following options:

I/we wish to be heard in support of this submission

Yes  No

I/we will consider presenting a joint case at a hearing if others make a similar submission

Yes  No

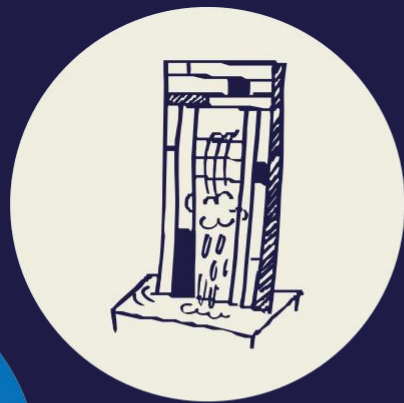
Signature of submitter:  Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter)

The information you have provided on this form will be stored on a public register and held by the council. The details (including your name and submission contents) may also be made available to the public on the council's website or on request, with your contact details removed. These details are collected to inform the general public and community groups about all consent applications which have been received by the council. If you would like to request access to, or correction of your details, please contact the council.

# HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION

## Waipā District Council – Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Discharge Consents

Waikato Regional Council



17 April 2023



**Hamilton  
City Council**  
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

# Improving the Wellbeing of Hamiltonians

Hamilton City Council is focused on improving the wellbeing of Hamiltonians through delivering to our five priorities of shaping:

- **A city that's easy to live in**
- **A city where our people thrive**
- **A central city where our people love to be**
- **A fun city with lots to do**
- **A green city**

The topic of this submission is aligned to the priority '**A green city**'.

## Council Approval and Reference

This Council submission was approved under delegated authority by Hamilton City Council's Chief Executive on 17 April 2023.

Hamilton City Council Reference D-4672428 - Submission # 731.

## Key Messages and Recommendations

1. We support the overall direction and intent of the application by Waipā District Council to the Waikato Regional Council regarding the **Waipā District Council - Cambridge WWTP Upgrade Discharge Consents**.
2. We acknowledge the significance of the infrastructure changes to the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant to improve the quality of wastewater discharges to the Waikato River and improve and restore the river.
3. We consider continued subregional integrated thinking, and investment in metro wastewater planning that result in the best for river, the community, and gives effect to Te Ture Whaimana is critical for the future and recommend participation in subregional forums to achieve that.
4. We are pleased to see the Assessment of Environmental Effects acknowledge the sub-regional context of wastewater discharges, and adoption of minimum water quality standards.
5. We consider sharing of information such as wastewater treatment plant discharge and environmental monitoring reports will assist in subregional planning and investment, and also provide insights into source water risks.
6. We request that five yearly Technology reviews are more appropriate to achieving objectives. Technology reviews provide an opportunity for performance evaluation, best available technology, management practice and policy, and provides an opportunity for gap analysis and improvement.
7. We have a duty of care to our river users and those that trust us to supply safe drinking water and request notification period of 4 hours in the event of a spill.

## Introduction

8. Hamilton City Council welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the application by Waipā District Council to the Waikato Regional Council regarding the **Waipā District Council - Cambridge WWTP Upgrade Discharge Consents**.
9. We support the overall direction and intent of Waipā District Council's application which seeks to be granted consents to construct a new wastewater treatment system. The proposed system will be designed to significantly improve wastewater discharge quality to the Waikato River.
10. As a large metropolitan city with responsibilities to the river and the community, Hamilton City Council has a strong interest in regional wastewater management activities. There are four critical issues that Hamilton City Council requires be appropriately managed under any ongoing discharge consent in relation to the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant. They are:
  - Ensuring that an integrated and 'best for river' approach is taken for all discharges to the awa.
  - That there is a continued collaborative approach taken to metro wastewater planning; coordinated infrastructure provision, and that benefits from the work invested to date can be realised.
  - That Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato objectives are recognised.
  - That risks to Hamilton City's potable water supply (and recreational river and stream users) are actively managed.
11. Hamilton City Council has previously submitted **conditional support** on consent applications for renewal of Waipā District Council's wastewater treatment plant consents (2019 - **Attachment 1**) and also provided a Statement of Evidence in support of its submission (**Attachment 2**).

12. The scope of Hamilton City Council’s review of the application documents has been confined to proposed consent conditions that will satisfactorily address matters of interest to Hamilton City. Provided each of these matters can be satisfactorily addressed via consent conditions, Hamilton City Council is supportive of the application.
13. This submission outlines the following key matters:
  - Integrated Management.
  - Giving effect to Te Ture Whaimana.
  - Protecting Hamilton City’s drinking water supply and recreational river users.

## Key Matters

### Integrated Management

14. The Waikato Region has seen tremendous growth and development in commercial, industrial, and residential areas, placing pressure on existing wastewater services and creating further demand for wastewater treatment and management services. One of the key problems for regional and subregional three waters management identified was a lack of integrated catchment management and urban waters long-term planning.
15. In addition to this, siloed consent applications have contributed to this problem. There is a need to ensure that future multiple municipal discharges and their consent applications across the metro area are recognised in a sub-regional context. Hamilton City Council is pleased to see that the Cambridge WWTP Assessment of Environmental Effects Report, Section 2 (December 2022) acknowledges the subregional metro wastewater planning context of the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant and its discharges.
16. Hamilton City, Waipā District and Waikato District, and Taangata Whenua are collaborative partners in important projects that seek to find a new way of delivering long-term wastewater services across territorial boundaries and that consider regional growth. These projects are named the ‘Southern Metro Wastewater Detailed Business Case’ and ‘Northern Metro Wastewater Detailed Business Case’ Projects.
17. The foundation of these projects is Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River (Te Ture Whaimana). Partners jointly recognise the benefits of “boundaryless” planning to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and meet the current and future needs of the Metro Area.
18. Building off a ‘Waikato Sub-regional Three waters Strategic Case’ for change, significant time, effort and cost has gone into developing the business cases for Northern and Southern Metro areas. With integrated management as one of the key focuses, these business cases consider growth assumptions, investment objectives, KPIs, MCA criteria, treatment performance standards, preferred wastewater servicing options, commercial delivery, contract and packaging approaches, funding and financing options, and management arrangements to ensure successful delivery of preferred solutions.
19. Investment objectives relate to a swimmable river, kai collection, quality and extent of aquatic and terrestrial habitat, restoring and enhancing cultural connectivity/relationships, efficient use of resources and resource recovery to contribute to net zero greenhouse gas related emissions, and sufficient capacity to ensure sustainable growth in the Metro Area. These objectives align with Te Ture Whaimana, the Waikato Regional Council’s Healthy Rivers Plan Change One, and New Zealand’s Emissions Reduction Plan.

20. In our previous submission (2019) we emphasised the obligation to give effect to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement policies: 4.2 (collaboration); 4.3 (Taangata Whenua expression); and 4.4 (coordination of infrastructure and service provision). We also referenced the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management which requires integrated management and includes encouraging the coordination and sequencing of regional or urban growth, land use and development, and the provision of infrastructure.
21. Te Waihangā's 'Te Rautaki Hanganga o Aotearoa' 30-year Infrastructure Strategy (2022-2052) also seeks improvement of efficiency and outcomes of infrastructure through spatial planning (recommendation 20), and improvement of spatial planning through better information on infrastructure capacity and costs to service growth (recommendation 24). Resource Management Reform will see a new Spatial Planning Act, and Three Waters Reform is seeking to address infrastructure challenges through the establishment of Water Service Entities.
22. Since Hamilton City Council's first submission in 2019, the Southern Metro Wastewater Detailed Business Case has been completed, which has recommended Waipā District Council proceed with a significant upgrade to their Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant, and that a new southern sub-regional wastewater treatment should be developed to manage wastewater from the Airport and surrounding area, and the southern areas of Hamilton City.
23. The consent application proposed common conditions that refer to Co-governance - Kaitiaki Group (Schedule 1). Hamilton City Council support such collaboration underpinned by conditions, however, note an absence of similar collaboration for groups that seek integrated management of wastewater activities.
24. Given the importance of integrated management, and the Southern Metro Wastewater project, and spatial planning, Hamilton City Council consider that a similar condition requiring participation and information sharing in subregional wastewater forums would be beneficial. This would uphold policies of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement, NPS-FWM and Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato, and align with legislative reform and long term Infrastructure strategies.
25. **Hamilton City Council recommends that conditions requiring the consent holder to participate in appropriate regional wastewater forums would meet matters relating to integrated management.**

### **Giving Effect to Te Ture Whaimana**

26. Hamilton City Council acknowledges and supports Waipā District Council's proposal for improved wastewater treatment to give effect to Te Ture Whaimana and improve water quality over the long term (as outlined in the Cambridge WWTP Environmental Assessment Report, 16 December 2022). We note that this includes full commissioning of a new high-end Membrane Bioreactor, and discharge to a new discharge structure in 2026.
27. As a sub-regional partner, we strongly support Waipā District Council's proposal to adopt the Southern Metro Design Business Case Memorandum of Understanding for minimum water quality standards for discharges (as outlined in Table 2.4 of the Environmental Assessment Report) and consideration of what should be summer limits and year-round limits. This will result in significant reduction in discharges of CBOD<sub>5</sub>, TSS, TN, TP and E. coli to the river.
28. It would be useful to other consent holders to understand the Cambridge Plant treatment performance over time in order to understand what other sub regional responses may be needed (and any changes to the risk profile of source water as required by new Water Services legislation).
29. **Hamilton City Council recommends that as part of participation in regional wastewater forum, the conditions could include sharing treatment performance reports and other useful information such as biosolids management and sustainability measures.**



30. Hamilton City Council supports the proposal for Technology Reviews. These reviews will assist in evaluating best management practice measures. Hamilton City Council notes that these are only scheduled every 10 years (Condition 16). Given that the region is committed to subregional wastewater planning, that regional plans are under review for environmental targets, including giving effect to Te Ture Whaimana, 10 yearly reviews may not be frequent enough. Hamilton City Council's Consent condition for Technology review requires that these are 3 yearly. Hamilton City Council notes that there is potential for this to be done on a subregional basis, and this could be explored further.
31. **Hamilton City Council recommends that technology review periods are reduced to a maximum of 5 years to allow for more progressive and integrated wastewater management.**

### **Protecting Hamilton City's Drinking Water Supply and Recreational River Users**

32. Hamilton City Council services a population of approximately 180,000 residents with drinking water. Protecting water supply is critical to the health and safety of residents. Hamilton City Council supports the proposed consent conditions that require a schedule of critical aspects, associated hazardous substances and detailed response and incident management plans, and contingency plans and procedures (Condition 5).
33. We note that where there is an incident, that the consent holder is required to notify Waikato Regional Council within 24 hours or as soon as reasonably practical. Where there may be a significant adverse effect, registered water supplies would only be notified as soon as reasonably practical. Council notes that Hamilton City Council's water intake point is quite distant at 20km downstream of the proposed rapid infiltration beds and that operator focus on managing an incident is of utmost importance, however, 'as soon as reasonably practical' may not result in timely notification.
34. Hamilton City Council's Source Water Risk Management Plan states that it takes between 4-5 hours for a body of water to travel from Cambridge Wastewater treatment Plant to Waiora Treatment Plant intake. A target of 4 hours seems a reasonable notification period.
35. **We recommend a modified condition that requires notification of a spill or treatment failure no longer than 4 hours after the event but as soon as practicable.**

### **Other Considerations**

36. Waipā District Council will facilitate beneficial re-use of treated effluent/biosolids if there is an opportunity that arises and is reasonable and cost effective to undertake. Hamilton City Council notes that Waipā District Council has not committed to actively seeking or investigating opportunities. Subregional collaboration may be helpful in this regard, however, Hamilton City Council recommends that there should be a requirement to seek opportunities on a regular basis to drive change.

## **Summary of Recommended Conditions**

37. **Hamilton City Council recommends that a condition (and any appropriate sub clauses) requiring the consent holder to participate in appropriate regional wastewater forums would meet matters relating to integrated management, and a proportional monetary contribution to fund such a group should be required.**
38. **Hamilton City Council recommends that as part of participation in regional wastewater forum, the conditions could include sharing treatment performance reports and other useful information such as biosolids management and sustainability measures.**
39. **Hamilton City Council recommends that technology review periods are reduced to a maximum of 5 years to allow for more progressive wastewater management.**
40. **Hamilton City Council recommends a modified condition that requires notification of a spill or treatment failure no longer than 4 hours after the event but as soon as practicable.**

## Further Information and Hearings

41. Should the Waikato Regional Council require clarification of the submission from Hamilton City Council, or additional information, please contact **Rae Simpson** (Senior Planner - City Waters) on **07 838 6427**, email [raewyn.simpson@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:raewyn.simpson@hcc.govt.nz) in the first instance.
42. Hamilton City Council representatives **do wish to speak** at the Waikato Regional Council hearings in support of this submission.

Yours faithfully



**Lance Vervoort**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Hamilton City Council  
Garden Place, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton

 /HamiltonCityCouncil

 @hamiltoncitycouncil

 07 838 6699

**hamilton.govt.nz**

# Submission form

## Notes

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## Office use only

File no:

Consent no:

## Section 1: Application details

**Applicant name:** Waipa District Council

### Description of proposal:

(Briefly describe the type of consent, and the nature and location of the activity. If the proposal is for a change or cancellation of an existing consent condition, please detail the type and location of consent, the relevant condition and the proposed change. If the application is for a transfer of a water or discharge permit, provide details of the existing activity site and, if relevant, the part of the permit proposed to be transferred.)

**Please refer to the attached submission.**

The specific parts of the application that this submission relates to are:

**Please refer to the attached submission.**

## Section 2: Submitter details

We will use your email address as preferred address for service, unless you advise otherwise.

<b>Name</b>	Full name of submitter: Hamilton City Council	
	Contact person (include designation if applicable): Jackie Colliar (Strategic Manager, Infrastructure, City Development Unit)	
<b>Postal address</b>	Street/RD/PO Box/Private Bag: 260 Anglesea Street, Private Bag 3010	
	Suburb: Hamilton West	
	Town/city: Hamilton	
	Postcode: 3240	
<b>Residential address</b> If different from postal address	Street:	
	Suburb:	
	Town/city:	
	Postcode:	
<b>Email address</b>	<a href="mailto:jackie.colliar@hcc.govt.nz">jackie.colliar@hcc.govt.nz</a>	
<b>Phone number/s</b>	Home:	Business: 07 959 9058
	Mobile: 027 808 3772	Fax: 07 838 6599

Waikato Regional Council, 401 Grey Street, Private Bag 3038, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240.

Phone our enquiries officer on 0800 800 402. [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz)

**Section 3: Submission on proposal**

Please detail your submission below. Attach additional pages if necessary.

I/we (tick one option only):

- Support the application/s
- Oppose the application/s
- Neither support nor oppose the application/s (neutral submission)

My submission: **Please refer to the attached submission.**

The reasons for my views are: **Please refer to the attached submission.**

I seek the following decision from the consent authority: **Please refer to the attached submission.**

(Give precise details, including the parts of the application you wish to have amended and the general nature of any conditions sought.)

Please tick either yes or no to the following options:

- I/we wish to be heard in support of this submission  Yes  No
- I/we will consider presenting a joint case at a hearing if others make a similar submission  Yes  No
- I/we request the functions, powers and duties required to hear and decide the application/s are delegated to one or more hearing commissioners who are **not** members of Waikato Regional Council.  Yes  No

(A request for delegation of hearing and decision-making authority must be made in writing no later than 5 working days after the submission closing date. You may be liable to meet or contribute to the costs of the hearings commissioner or commissioners. You may not make this request in relation to an application to carry out an activity that a regional plan describes as a restricted coastal activity.)

Signature of submitter:  Date: 19 December 2019  
(or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter)

**19 December 2019**

**Submission by**

**Hamilton City Council**

## **CAMBRIDGE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE CONSENT APPLICATION (APP141113)**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Submission on an application from Waipa District Council (WDC) for resource consents (APP141113):

Activity 1: 141113.01.01	Discharge of treated wastewater from the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant to land (rapid infiltration beds) in the vicinity of the Waikato River.
Activity 2: 141113.02.01	Discharge of contaminants to groundwater (seepage) and to land through seepage from the aerated pond liner, wetlands and other structures that form any part of the wastewater treatment process in association with Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant.
Activity 3: 141113.03.01	Discharge to air (odour) associated with the operation of Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant.

- 1.2 HCC is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991.

### **2.0 SPECIFIC PARTS OF THE APPLICATION THAT THIS SUBMISSION RELATES TO**

- 2.1 All aspects of the suite of resource consents applied for.

### **3.0 HCC'S SUBMISSION**

- 3.1 Conditional support for the application for consents.

### **4.0 HCC SEEKS THE FOLLOWING DECISION FROM THE CONSENT AUTHORITY**

- 4.1 HCC seeks the grant of consents to enable the ongoing operation of the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant (CWWTP) but subject to the consents including conditions which satisfactorily address the following matters.
- 4.2 How the grant of consents gives effect to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement Policies 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4; Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa Waikato (The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River), and the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2019. In particular:
- a) Waikato Regional Policy Statement, Policy 4.1; Integrated Management, which requires an integrated approach to resource management that recognises the benefits of aligning the decisions of relevant management agencies across boundaries; maximises the benefits and efficiencies of working together; maximises opportunities to achieve multiple objectives; takes a long-term strategic approach which recognises the changing environment and

changing resource use pressures and trends; applies consistent and best practice standards and processes to decision-making.

- b) Waikato Regional Policy Statement, Policy 4.2; Collaborative approach which requires Waikato Regional Council to recognise and provide for the unique role that territorial authorities have in the implementation of the provisions of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement; and encourage collaboration, participation and information sharing between resource management agencies, tāngata whenua and relevant stakeholders, particularly where there are shared or overlapping responsibilities or functions for issues or resources, and including when resources or issues cross boundaries.
- c) Waikato Regional Policy Statement, Policy 4.3; Tāngata Whenua. Tāngata whenua are provided appropriate opportunities to express, maintain and enhance the relationship with their rohe through resource management and other local authority processes.
- d) Waikato Regional Policy Statement, Policy 4.4; Regionally significant industry and primary production (in particular 4.4 (d) states: Co-ordinating infrastructure and service provision at a scale appropriate to the activities likely to be undertaken, and Policy 4.4.2 implementation method which requires Local Authorities and infrastructure and service providers, and industry organisations, to collaborate in respect to the design, co-ordination and provision of infrastructure and services.
- e) Te Ture Whaimana (Vision & Strategy) which has 13 objectives relating to the Waikato River. HCC values its partnership with Waikato-Tainui and mana whenua and seeks that WDC collaborate with our Iwi partners in relation to any submission they may make to the CWWTP consent in order to reach mutual agreement on how Te Ture Whaimana is achieved through the consent.
- f) Proposed National policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2019), which requires integrated management in such a way includes encouraging the co-ordination and sequencing of regional or urban growth, land use and development, and the provision of infrastructure. In order to give effect to the National Policy Statement, local authorities that share jurisdiction over a catchment should co-operate in the integrated management of the effects on freshwater of land use and development.

- 4.3 HCC has a specific interest in ensuring that the conditions imposed, including the duration of the consents, do not inhibit or frustrate the integration of the CWWTP with the Waikato Sub-Regional 3 Waters Project which could involve a centralised wastewater facility somewhere to the south of Hamilton that has the potential to best achieve the project vision and Te Ture Whaimana. This option is acknowledged in the resource consent application under consideration and is one of the short-listed options for Cambridge that will be investigated as part of the sub-regional study and the Cambridge long-term consenting project.
- 4.4 HCC also has a specific interest in conditions addressing the treatment capacity at the CWWTP, as septage from Waipa District requires an adequate treatment location. WDC is seeking assistance from HCC to manage this situation through the Pukete WWTP. Accepting out of district septage presents a number of risks to HCC that must be addressed in order for HCC to agree to receive the septage. HCC support of the consent applications is conditional upon reaching an acceptable agreement with WDC regarding the receipt of septage from the Waipa District at the Pukete WWTP.
- 4.5 Hamilton City's potable water supply intake is located downstream of the CWWTP discharge. Consent conditions are sought which actively manage all risks which might potentially arise to that potable water supply.

## 5.0 FURTHER INFORMATION AND HEARINGS

- 5.1 Should the Waikato Regional Council require clarification of the above points, or additional information, please contact Jackie Colliar (Strategic Manager - Infrastructure, City Development) on 07 959 9058, 027 808 3722, email [jackie.colliar@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:jackie.colliar@hcc.govt.nz) in the first instance.
- 5.2 Hamilton City Council **wishes to be heard** in support of this submission.

Yours faithfully



**Richard Briggs**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



**BEFORE THE HEARING PANEL**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of an application under s15 of the Act by **WAIPA DISTRICT COUNCIL** for the short term consenting of the Cambridge Wastewater Plant (**APP141113**)

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF RICHARD GRAHAM BRIGGS ON BEHALF OF  
HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL**

**Dated 19 OCTOBER 2019**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Hamilton City Council (HCC) does not wish to be heard in person at the hearing but presents this statement of evidence in support of its submission and asks that it be tabled for consideration by the Hearing Commissioner.
2. HCC made a submission of conditional support for the application. The submission was conditional upon the consents including conditions which satisfactorily address the following matters:
  - Giving effect to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement Policies 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4; Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa Waikato (The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River), and the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2019, and in particular concerns raised by Iwi and mana whenua representatives.
  - Ensuring conditions imposed do not inhibit or frustrate the integration of the CWWTP with the Waikato Sub-Regional 3 Waters Project.
  - The treatment capacity at the CWWTP, as septage from Waipa District requires an adequate treatment location.
  - Active management of all risks which might potentially arise to that Hamilton City potable water supply.
3. I am making this statement to elaborate on HCC submission, subsequent discussions which have been had with the Applicant, and proposed amendments to conditions that HCC would like to see to outstanding matters raised in our submission. Should the commissioners have any specific questions for HCC in relation to the information contained in this statement, Maire Porter (HCC City Waters Manager) would be available to attend the hearing in order to provide clarification.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

4. I have read the Environment Court Code of Conduct for expert witnesses contained in the Environment Court Practice Note 2014 and to the extent that the content of this statement contains expert evidence, and that evidence is within my expertise, I agree to comply with it.

#### **SCOPE OF EVIDENCE**

5. My evidence will address the basis for the conditional support HCC has offered to the applicant in its submission, and the issues that are critical to HCC in terms of retaining that support. Broadly, there are four critical issues that HCC requires be appropriately managed under any ongoing discharge consent in relation to the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant (**CWWTP**). They are:
  - a. Giving effect to Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato;
  - b. Preserving the ability for the CWWTP to integrate with any longer term centralised sub-regional 3 waters infrastructure;
  - c. Addressing risk associated with HCC accepting septage from Waipa District through the HCC Pukete wastewater treatment plant;
  - d. Protecting the water quality to the extent that it creates no risks for the HCC potable water supply given the intake is located downstream of the CWWTP discharge point.
6. Provided each of these matters can be satisfactorily addressed via consent conditions, HCC remains supportive of the application.

## ANALYSIS

7. In this section of my evidence each of the four critical issues is explained in more detail, including providing guidance on the outcomes sought by HCC.

### **Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa Waikato**

8. HCC seeks assurance that if consent is granted, the applicant can achieve the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.
9. HCC supports the position of tangata whenua groups identified by the applicant as the *Iwi Project Partners*. This group comprises Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Koroki Kahukura, Ngāti Raukawa and Waikato-Tainui.
10. HCC is aware that the applicant and the Iwi Project Partners have been engaged in a number of hui over the past few months, in recognition of their role as co-managers of the Awa. HCC is aware that those parties have been in discussions regarding a Memorandum of Understanding which is intended to commit them to a programme of restoration and protection of the Waikato River. HCC understands that the MOU has not been signed and is 'on hold' and that Waipa DC has instead provided a Letter of Intent to Iwi Partners that outlines Waipa DC commitments HCC also understands that Waipa DC and Iwi Project Partners have reached agreement on ongoing monitoring, collaboration and engagement needed between the parties as part of implementing the short-term consent and working toward a long-term solution for Cambridge. HCC supports the intent of the parties to work together and notes that any solution involving sub-regional solutions must involve HCC as a critical partner.

### **Integration with sub-regional 3 waters strategy**

11. In its submission HCC identified a range of policies contained within the Waikato Regional Policy Statement which required consideration.<sup>1</sup> It also identified provisions within the Proposed National Policy Statement for

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<sup>1</sup> WRPS Policy 4.2, 4.2, 4.4, Objective 13

Freshwater Management (2019) which requires integrated management including encouraging the co-ordination and sequencing of regional or urban growth, land use and development, and the provision of infrastructure.

12. HCC has an interest in ensuring that if consent is granted, the conditions imposed, including the duration of the consents, do not inhibit or frustrate the integration of the CWWTP with the Waikato Sub-Regional 3 Waters Project and the subsequent Hamilton-Waikato Metro Wastewater Detailed Business Case Project (Metro WW Project).
13. The Metro WW Project builds on previous work completed as part of the Waikato Sub-Regional 3 Waters Project (Hamilton Metro Spatial Wastewater Treatment Feasibility Study – September 2020) and the Cambridge Wastewater Indicative Business Case (December 2019). This work identified a centralised wastewater facility (referred to as a sub-regional WWTP by the applicant) south of Hamilton to service Cambridge, parts of Hamilton and communities in between as the preferred servicing wastewater solution in the long-term. A sub-regional wastewater solution has the potential to best meet the requirements of Te Ture Whaimana o te awa o Waikato and the needs of the Metro Area communities.
14. The Metro WW Project is being delivered through partnership between HCC, Waikato District Council, Waipa District Council, Waikato-Tainui and Mana Whenua and is seeking to confirm the preferred Southern Metro Wastewater (WW) servicing solutions (which includes servicing for Cambridge) by December 2020. The full detailed business case is due to be delivered by May 2021.
15. While the Metro WW Project is currently on programme to identify a preferred solution by December 2020 and for completion by March 2021, adequate time is needed to obtain agreement across the partners and implement the detailed business case recommendations.
16. HCC supports implementing long term solutions that improve the quality of discharge from Cambridge as soon as possible and supports the conditions of the short-term consent setting out ambitious, yet achievable

milestone dates. The proposed amended condition 33 sets a deadline of 31 December 2022 for a resource consent application to be submitted for a long-term solution (whether that is a Cambridge only solution or a sub-regional option). HCC consider that this timeframe is overly ambitious and seek that a deadline of 31 December 2023 is set if a sub-regional option is pursued. HCC therefore seeks the following amendment to the proposed consent condition 33:

*“The consent holder shall prepare and submit to Waikato Regional Council, an application for resource consent regarding the long-term option for wastewater treatment currently undertaken at the Cambridge WWTP, ~~or alternatively a sub-regional option~~, by 31 December 2022. If a sub-regional option at a new location is pursued as the long-term option for Cambridge, an application for resource consent shall be prepared and submitted to Waikato Regional Council by 31 December 2023. If this timeframe cannot be met an appropriate timeframe can be agreed in writing with the consent authority and will consider any feedback from the Kaitiaki Group and Community Liaison Group”.*

17. HCC also notes that the timeframe set out in Condition 34 would be overly ambitious if a sub-regional option were to be pursued.

#### **Risk associated with septage processed at Pukete**

18. HCC also has a specific interest in conditions addressing the treatment capacity at the CWWTP, as septage from Waipa District requires an adequate treatment location. The applicant is seeking assistance from HCC to manage this situation through the Pukete WWTP to reduce the nitrogen load discharged from the Cambridge WWTP to the Waikato river.
19. Accepting out of district septage presents a number of risks to HCC that must be addressed in order for HCC to agree to receive the septage. At a high level these risks, and commitments are associated with resource consent compliance (number 114674), HCC's commitment to iwi relationships under the Joint Management Agreement, ensuring WWTP capacity for growth and future wet industry and ensuring there is no burden to ratepayers. HCC support of the consent applications is conditional upon reaching an acceptable agreement with WDC regarding

the receipt of septage from the Waipa District at the Pukete WWTP and Council resolution. HCC cannot make any guarantees that this agreement will be secured at this stage but offers its assurance that it will work in good faith to secure an agreement if possible.

20. At section 3.1.1 of the applicant's AEE the applicant notes;

Waipā DC is investigating removing septage disposal options at the Cambridge WWTP and is in discussions with Hamilton City Council (HCC) currently about the potential for Hamilton WWTP to take Cambridge septage, as an alternative regional option for septage disposal. To date, HCC has outlined that they have no barriers to receiving domestic septage at their WWTP.

21. This statement is not entirely correct. There have been a series of discussions and communications between the applicant and HCC regarding HCC's willingness to take septage from the Waipa District and process it at the Pukete WWTP. HCC has signalled that this is possible but will require Council resolution and a clear contractual arrangement to be entered into with the applicant which addresses a range of risks which HCC has identified should such an arrangement be entered into.
22. Waipa District Council approached HCC with a proposal to divert septage from the Cambridge WWTP to Pukete WWTP in order to reduce nitrogen loading from the Cambridge WWTP to assist achieving compliance with the proposed short-term resource consent conditions for that site.
23. To assess feasibility of this proposal, there has been an intensive monitoring programme of septage waste from Cambridge. Data obtained from the programme indicated a wide variation in the strength and quality of the septage which can increase the risk of operational and compliance issues for Pukete WWTP. Modelling has also identified potential impacts on nitrogen compliance and digester capacity. The modelling has not

considered impacts beyond the year 2022, further growth, new wet industry entrants, mechanical risks and climate change.

24. HCC's appetite for compliance risk (including additional Nitrogen and Phosphorus loading or toxic industrial waste impacts), mechanical risks and capacity for new wet industry is still under consideration. Discussions are in progress with Waipa District Council about potential frameworks to manage these risks. This includes the potential for a consenting mechanism for the additional loading to the WWTP from out of district waste. Discussions also include appropriate resourcing and financial contributions.
25. HCC has provided a formal letter to Waipa District Council on these matters and how they could be progressed to a decision, (see attached letter to Waipa District Council, Water Services Manager, 1 October 2020).
26. If the consent authority is minded to granting consent and does so in reliance on septage being taken from the Waipa District and processed by HCC at the Pukete WWTP, it must recognise that arrangements are not yet in place and will only be entered into if HCC is satisfied that all risks are sufficiently mitigated. Any arrangements will require a full resolution of the elected members of HCC.

#### **Risk to potable water supply**

27. Hamilton's only potable water supply intake is located on the western bank of the Waikato River, approximately 20.3km downstream of the CWWTP discharge.
28. HCC has an interest in ensuring that if the consent is granted, that the conditions imposed ensure that contaminant levels do not increase the overall risks to the HCC potable water supply, and that HCC is notified



immediately of any monitoring results or incidents that indicate that the waste water treatment process is not performing as expected and that the Waikato River water quality may be impacted.

29. HCC is committed to managing the Hamilton drinking-water supply to provide safe, high quality drinking-water that meets legislative requirements under the Health Act 1956, and standards set out in the Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand 2005 (Revised 2018) and the New Zealand Drinking-water Safety Plan framework, as well as the expectations of the Hamilton community.
30. The Drinking-water Safety Plan framework incorporates the six principles of Safe Drinking water:
  - Principle 1: A high standard of care must be embraced
  - Principle 2: Protection of source water is of paramount importance
  - Principle 3: Maintain multiple barriers against contamination
  - Principle 4: Change (including changes to processes and hazardous events) precedes contamination
  - Principle 5: Suppliers must own the safety of drinking-water
  - Principle 6: Apply a preventive risk management approach.
31. HCC acknowledges the importance of each of these principles and through this submission is acting to protect the quality of the Waikato River as Hamilton's only drinking-water source, reduce the likelihood of changes to hazard levels and hazardous events, and therefore the downstream risk to the Hamilton potable supply.
32. At the Waiora Treatment plant intake, the Waikato River currently has a 3-log requirement for protozoa removal which determines the level and type of treatment required to comply with drinking water legislative requirements and standards. The 3-log removal credits were established through 12 months of monitoring by HCC in 2016. HCC employs a high level of care with a multi-barrier treatment process at Waiora Treatment

plant that is capable of routinely achieving 7-log credits for protozoal removal.

33. However, any activity upstream of the intake that may increase protozoa concentrations or other contaminants, including nitrates, requires a risk assessment to be undertaken and included in the Hamilton Water Safety Plan. Any risks determined to be inadequately mitigated, will require additional preventative measures put in place by HCC, with associated costs. This may include increased monitoring, operational changes or potentially capital upgrades. HCC wishes to ensure that upstream discharges have best available technology to meet appropriate water quality standards for the region.
34. In addition to this, HCC also seek a consent condition to immediately notify HCC Waiora Water Treatment Plant if there is any atypical discharge to the River.

### **CONCLUSION**

35. HCC is in partnership with its neighbouring districts on sub-regional growth and three waters matters under Future Proof.
36. HCC conditionally supports the granting of consents to enable the ongoing operation of the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant (CWWTP). Support is subject to the consents including conditions which satisfactorily address the following matters raised in its submission and this evidence. This includes conditions that give effect to Waikato Regional Policies relating to integrated management, give effect to Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa Waikato; does not inhibit an integrated subregional wastewater facility; requires appropriate management of septage; requires management of risk to downstream water supplies and notification requirements.

37. HCC thanks the Waikato Regional Council for the opportunity to provide this Statement of Evidence and for your consideration in this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Briggs', is centered on the page.

Richard Briggs  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hamilton City Council  
16 October 2020