

From: Dianne Mulhern <**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 July 2025 3:27 pm
To: Paula Southgate <paula.southgate@council.hcc.govt.nz>; CEO <CEO@hcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Invitation to Community event to discuss the SWWTP

Dear Paula and Lance,

Please find below correspondence received from Melissa Slatter regarding a proposed meeting between Council and local residents concerning the Southern Waste Water Treatment Plant (SWWTP).

We are concerned that Melissa's response does not contribute positively to maintaining the trust and transparency that residents expect from Council. Waiting for Council to notify us of future drop-in sessions, while progress on the project continues, does not feel like an open or collaborative approach. It comes across as very dismissive.

We believe there are genuine and reasonable concerns that require immediate discussion. The information we are seeking pertains to decisions that have already been made, particularly around the selection of the preferred site for the SWWTP—an issue that remains a key concern for many in our community.

We look forward to your support in ensuring this meeting proceeds in good faith with Council and with the shared goal of constructive engagement between Council and residents.

Kind regards
Dianne

From: Kevin Strongman <Kevin.Strongman@hcc.govt.nz>
Date: 1 August 2025 at 4:09:49 PM NZST
To: diannemulhern3@gmail.com
Cc: CEO <CEO@hcc.govt.nz>, Paula Southgate <paula.southgate@council.hcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Invitation to Community event to discuss the SWWTP

Kia ora Dianne,

Thanks for getting in touch. I'm Kevin, the General Manager for Infrastructure and Assets at Council, responding on behalf of Lance Vervoort as he's away.

I understand your concerns about the project and appreciate you sharing them with myself and the project team. I have been in touch with the team who've assured me they've shared detailed information with you about the project and its current status. The site selection process for this project was extensive and rigorous, and considered a wide range of technical factors, ultimately leading to 131 Raynes Rd being the preferred site. We won't be exploring any other potential sites for the project.

With that said, the project is in its early stages, and the project team will continue to share information as further investigations are done. There will also be opportunities to provide feedback on aspects of the project, which we'll contact you and other neighbours about directly as they arise. The construction of the project is likely to be several years away.

The project team is committed to mitigating potential impacts of the Plant on the surrounding community, and have already recorded some areas of concern for neighbours, such as odour and visual amenity. These concerns will be addressed in the planning process and the project team will be in touch with residents throughout.

Thanks for your invitation to attend your community meeting. We will be engaging directly with you and all residents at key points as the project progresses. While that time is not yet, we're committed to keeping you informed and involved along the way. We understand you have questions and we appreciate your interest in the project. It's important to us that all residents receive the same information and we're in the process of updating our website with the relevant reports – I'm happy to email you when these reports are online.

If you'd like discuss any of this further, I'm happy to meet with you at the Council offices.

Ngaa mihi nui,
Kevin Strongman
General Manager, Infrastructure and Assets