



Submission to: IAWAI - Flowing Waters

From: Stop the Stink, community group (stopthestink2025@gmail.com)

Date: 28 August 2025

Re: Proposed Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant (SWWTP)

Background

An initial community meeting was held at the Rukuhia School hall on 9 August 2025 in response to a mail drop of houses in the near vicinity of the proposed SWWTP (Peacocks, Raynes, Middle and Lowe roads).

That meeting was facilitated by Dianne Mulhern and family and attended by 80+ people.

The limited information available at that time was presented to attendees. This included that:

- the proposed SWWTP site currently is in Waipa District Council but proposal to shift land to Hamilton City Council.
- the designation of the land will need to change (This is done by HCC who own the land).
- the treatment plant was mentioned in the hearings for the northern Titanium Park airport development in relation to a proposed cycleway that would cross the treatment plant and would need to be changed.
- no or minimal consultation has occurred with adjacent property owners.

The meeting was addressed by Andrew Bydder (HCC Councillor), mayoral and councillor candidates (Waipa and Hamilton), mana whenua representative (Te Kopa King -

We have only this week received a Beca report¹ which states that the selection criteria for the preferred site includes discharge to Nukuhau Stream and ultimately Waikato River.

We consider that the site-selection criteria are flawed, and that major environmental and human health concerns exist for locating the proposed treatment plant in this location.

Major Issues and Concerns:

We have major concerns for the high likelihood of adverse human effects both in relation to Nukuhau Stream and the Waikato River.

Immediate vicinity and Nukuhau Stream:

1. Odour from operations.
2. Heavy traffic chemical deliveries and removal of solid wastes.
3. Risk of treatment system failures leading to untreated discharges.
4. Groundwater contamination – many residents rely on bore water.
5. Faecal microbial and virus exposure from contact with Nukuhau Stream.
6. Chemical and microbial contamination of mahinga kai harvested from stream (primarily tuna – eels).
7. Ecotoxic effects of chemicals from industrial activity at Titanium Park.
8. Potential extreme deoxygenation (sewage fungus) and algal slime (from nutrients) over large distances in stream.

Waikato River:

1. Discharge is upstream of Hamilton Drinking Water intakes:
 - a. Toxic/persistent industrial/domestic chemicals (e.g., including ‘forever chemicals’ – PFAS)
 - b. Pharmaceuticals passing through treatment system (e.g., multiple bioactive chemicals)
 - c. Illicit narcotics (e.g., methamphetamine and cocaine)
2. Additional faecal microorganisms added to river above recreational areas in city.
3. Nutrient additions (nitrogen and phosphorus) to river will promote algal and macrophyte growths.

This is not “Local Water Done Well”!

We would like to present to IAWAI - Flowing Waters in future, when we have reviewed the Beca report and other documents. That presentation would include representatives with technical and legal expertise.