

Hamilton City Council Submission

Waipā District Council's Draft 2025-34 Long Term Plan

Waipā District Council

9 June 2025

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 Council submission is aligned with all of Hamilton City Council's five priorities.

Council Approval and Reference

This submission was approved by Hamilton City Council's Waters and Rates Working Group on 6 June 2025.

Submission # 804

Introduction

1. Hamilton City Council welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to **Waipā District Council's Draft 2025-34 Long Term Plan**.
2. The Council's Key Messages and Recommendations are outlined below.

Key Messages and Recommendations

3. PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

4. The partnership between Hamilton City Council and Waipā District Council has gone from strength to strength. Through Future Proof, strategic infrastructure projects such as the Metro Spatial Plan Rapid Transport work, the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Pukete Wastewater Treatment Plant, and other wastewater upgrades have been agreed. We encourage Waipā District Council to make allowances for these commitments in their Infrastructure Plan and Long Term Plan planned expenditure to continue progress on sub-regional priorities, noting that they can only be delivered in partnership.
5. As outlined in your Draft Long Term Plan, local government continues to face significant funding challenges, along with a substantial volume of legislative change impacting the sector. Hamilton City Council wants to continue to explore future opportunities for shared services with Waipā District Council and other councils, which may provide efficiencies and therefore cost savings for ratepayers.
6. Working across jurisdictional boundaries is now more important than ever, with additional urban development enabled through Fast Track and other government policy settings. Hamilton City Council wants to continue to strengthen the relationship with Waipā District Council, working together on integrated planning (be it transport, community infrastructure or other services), which will be vital to achieve quality outcomes for our future growing communities.
7. We also value collective advocacy to Central Government on matters such as infrastructure investment on a boundaryless basis, including city and regional deals and other future initiatives, i.e. essentially a 'stronger together' approach with our key partner councils.

8. LOCAL WATER DONE WELL CONSULTATION

9. Hamilton City Council, together with Waikato District Council, has also made a joint submission to the 'Local Water Done Well' consultation being undertaken by Waipā District Council.
10. The submission notes that the government has encouraged councils to work together to deliver at scale and welcomes Waipā District Council's proposal to work with other rural councils across the region to achieve this, and also notes that it is important for any CCOs that are established to work closely together.
11. Specifically, the joint Hamilton City Council/Waikato District Council submission to the 'Local Water Done Well Consultation' notes that:
 - The Future Proof growth strategy details the significant infrastructure requirements to respond to high growth and support the productivity of the region. Of course, much of the greenfield areas around Hamilton are either in Waipā or Waikato – meaning working together and in line with what has been agreed, no matter who delivers water services, is a must.
 - As we have agreed, one of the most significant projects for our region is the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant (SWWTP), which was identified through the Waikato-Hamilton-Waipā Southern Metropolitan Wastewater Detailed Business Case. As you will recall, this business case was jointly delivered through strong collaboration between iwi, mana whenua and our three Councils and is supported by an associated Memorandum of Understanding.

- The opportunity this wastewater treatment plant will unlock for this part of the Future Proof sub-region is immense, due to the expected growth that is taking place and planned for this area, along with opportunities around the Airport precinct to enable the build of the northern precinct. Proposed Fast-track developments (such as SL 1) in the Southern Links area will also benefit greatly from contributing and connecting to the wastewater treatment plant.
- We note that in Hamilton City Council and Waikato District Council's capital plans, we have included provision to advance the construction of the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant (Stage 2) and the diversion of wastewater from Ngaaruawaahia, Taupiri, Te Kowhai and Horotiu to the Pukete Wastewater Treatment Plan in the future.
- As you will be aware, conversations regarding initiating the boundary transfer for this area are well advanced with Waipā. However, the area of land subject to the transfer discussions is smaller than the area that would be served by SWWTP.
- Irrespective of the outcome of the boundary change, we strongly encourage Waipā District Council to allow for the SWWTP, and any adjacent areas identified as part of the Fast Track decision, in your Long-Term Plan, or alternatively, that Waipā District Council requests their proposed new CCO to include the SWWTP funding in its Water Services Delivery Plan and Water Services Strategy.
- If the land area is not transferred, additional allowances need to be made to ensure sufficient investment is made to deliver on the Government's requirements and the region's needs.

Further Information and Hearings

12. Should Waipā District Council require clarification of the submission from Hamilton City Council, or additional information, please contact **Hannah Windle** (Unit Director – Strategic Planning and Advocacy) on **027 1800 2316**, or email Hannah.Windle@hcc.govt.nz in the first instance.
13. Hamilton City Council representatives **do wish to speak at the hearings** scheduled for 17-18 June 2025 in support of Council's submission to **Waipā District Council's Draft 2025-34 Long Term Plan**.
14. We also welcome the opportunity to have ongoing discussions around the key areas of this submission with Waipā District Council.

Yours faithfully



Lance Vervoort
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

FURTHER INFORMATION

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