

Strategic Planning & Policy Committee Public Agenda - 3 December 2024

Council Chambers
Waipā District Council
101 Bank Street
Te Awamutu



Chairperson
EM Stolwyk

Members

Her Worship the Mayor SC O'Regan, AW Brown, LE Brown, PTJ Coles, RDB Gordon, ML Gower, MG Montgomerie, DM Morgan, MJ Pettit, CS St Pierre, BS Thomas, B Harris - Te Kanohi

03 December 2024 09:10 AM

Agenda Topic	Presenter	Time	Page
Opening Karakia		09:10 AM-09:12 AM	
1. Apologies	Chairperson	09:12 AM-09:13 AM	3
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5. Confirmation of Minutes - 5 November 2024	Chairperson	09:16 AM-09:18 AM	7
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6. Approval of the Draft Council Submission to the Board of Inquiry on the Application for a Waste to Energy Plant in Te Awamutu	Kirsty Downey and Mieke Heyns	09:18 AM-09:46 AM	11
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7. 2025-34 Long Term Plan Project Update	Melissa Russo	09:46 AM-09:51 AM	30

8. Closing Karakia

09:51 AM-09:53 AM



APOLOGIES



DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Members are reminded to declare and stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected member and any private or other external interest they may have.



LATE ITEMS

Items not on the agenda for the meeting require a resolution under section 46A of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 stating the reasons why the item was not on the agenda and why it cannot be dealt with at a subsequent meeting on the basis of a full agenda item. It is important to note that late items can only be dealt with when special circumstances exist and not as a means of avoiding or frustrating the requirements in the Act relating to notice, agendas, agenda format and content.



CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

Recommendation

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.



To: The Chairperson and Members of the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee

From: Governance

Subject: **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Meeting Date: 3 December 2024

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA

The local authority, its committees, subcommittees and any local and community boards must keep minutes of their proceedings. These minutes must be kept in hard or electronic copy, authorised by a Chairperson’s manual or electronic signature once confirmed by resolution at a subsequent meeting. Once authorised the minutes are the prima facie evidence of the proceedings they relate to.

The only topic that may be discussed at a subsequent meeting, with respect to the minutes, is their correctness.

2 RECOMMENDATION – TŪTOHU Ā-KAIMAHI

That the open minutes of the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee meeting held on 5 November 2024, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

3 ATTACHMENT - ĀPITITANGA

Strategic Planning and Policy Committee Open Minutes – 5 November 2024 (pre-circulated)

COMMITTEE MINUTES



Committee: Strategic Planning and Policy Committee
Time: 9.10am
Date: Tuesday 5 November 2024
Venue: Council Chambers, Waipā District Council
101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu

PRESENT

Chairperson
EM Stolwyk

Members

Her Worship the Mayor SC O'Regan, AW Brown, LE Brown, PTJ Coles, RDG Gordon (via Zoom), ML Gower, MG Montgomerie (via Zoom), DM Morgan, MJ Pettit, CS St Pierre, BS Thomas, B Harris - Te Kanohi

Opening Karakia – Councillor Morgan

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None

3 LATE ITEM

None.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

RESOLVED

2/24/75

That the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee confirms the order of the meeting.

Councillor L Brown / Councillor Morgan

COMMITTEE MINUTES



5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 1 OCTOBER 2024

RESOLVED

2/24/76

That the open minutes of the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee meeting held on 1 October 2024, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Councillor St Pierre / Councillor A Brown

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 14 OCTOBER 2024

RESOLVED

2/24/77

That the open minutes of the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee meeting held on 14 October 2024, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Councillor Thomas / Councillor Morgan

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 22 OCTOBER 2024

RESOLVED

2/24/78

That the open minutes of the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee meeting held on 22 October 2024, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Councillor Gordon / Councillor L Brown

8 2025-34 LONG TERM PLAN PROJECT UPDATE

This report provided Elected Members with an update on how the 2025-34 Long Term Plan (LTP) project was progressing. Over the last month, staff have been focusing on developing the Financial Strategy.

RESOLVED

2/24/79

That the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee receives the report of Anthea Sayer, Senior Strategic Policy Advisor, titled '2025-34 Long Term Plan Project Update,' (document number 11294749).



Councillor A Brown / Councillor Pettit

9 DISTRICT GROWTH QUARTERLY REPORT - 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The purpose of this report was to provide the Committee with a quarterly update on matters relating to growth and regulatory services in the Waipā District. This included matters arising at national, regional, sub-regional and district levels. This report was provided for information purposes and did not require any decision making on the part of elected members.

RESOLVED

2/24/80

That the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee receives the report of Wayne Allan, Group Manager District Growth and Regulatory Services titled District Growth Quarterly Report 1 July to 30 Sept 2024 [ECM Number 11318456].

Councillor A Brown / Councillor Coles

Closing Karakia – Councillor Morgan

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55am

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

CHAIRPERSON:

.....

DATE:

.....

COMMITTEE REPORT



To: The Chairperson and Members of the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee

From: Strategic Policy Advisor

Subject: **Approval of the draft Council submission to the Board of Inquiry on the application for a waste to energy plant in Te Awamutu**

Meeting Date: 3 December 2024

1 PURPOSE - TAKE

The purpose of this report is to request that the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee approves the draft Council submission to the Board of Inquiry on the Te Awamutu waste to energy plant application.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA

This report follows a workshop with Elected Members on 20 November 2024 seeking direction on the proposed focus areas of a Council submission on the application to construct and operate a waste to energy facility at 401 Racecourse Road, Te Awamutu.

3 RECOMMENDATION – TŪTOHU Ā-KAIMAHI

That the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee

- a) **Receives** the report of Mieke Heyns, Strategic Policy Advisor, titled 'Approval of the draft Council submission to the Board of Inquiry on the application for a waste to energy plant in Te Awamutu', (ECM number 11331490);
- b) **Approves** the draft Council Submission to the Board of Inquiry on the application for a waste to energy plant in Te Awamutu (ECM number 11331491) attached to this report as Appendix 1.

4 BACKGROUND – KŌRERO WHAIMĀRAMA

Resource consent applications were submitted to Waipā District Council and Waikato Regional Council in 2021 seeking consent to construct and operate a waste to energy plant at 401 Racecourse Road, Te Awamutu.

The applications were jointly publicly notified in 2023 with nearly 900 submissions received, almost overwhelmingly in opposition to the application.

Following requests by Waikato Regional Council and Waipā District Council, on 17 August 2024 the Minister for the Environment, Hon. Penny Simmonds, directed that the applications be called-in as matters of national significance and referred to a Board of Inquiry. The Board of Inquiry process is being administered by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

Due to the high level of community interest and concern regarding the application to develop a waste to energy plant in Te Awamutu, the Council has prepared a draft submission to the Board of Inquiry.

As the District Plan & Growth team of the Council are separately involved as a regulatory authority, including providing a key issues report to the EPA, the draft Council submission has been prepared by the Strategy team. This is presented for Elected Member approval.

5 SIGNIFICANCE & ENGAGEMENT KAUPAPA WHAI MANA ME NGĀ MATAPAKINGA

Staff have considered the key considerations under the Significance and Engagement Policy, in particular sections 7 and 8, and have assessed that the matter in this report has a high level of significance.

6 OPTIONS – NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA

Decision making

The approval of the Council's draft submission is important in enabling the Council to participate in the Board of Inquiry process to assess the merits of the application to develop a waste to energy facility in Te Awamutu.

Options

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option 1: Do nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council's position is neutral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unable to participate directly in the Board of Inquiry process. ▪ Unable to be a voice for the community on a proposal that will have major and lasting impacts on Te Awamutu and its residents.
Option 2: Approve the draft submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council is able to participate directly in the Board of Inquiry process. ▪ Council is able to be a voice for the community on a proposal that will have major and lasting impacts on Te Awamutu and its residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council's position is not neutral.

The recommended option is Option 2. The reason for this is that the Council has a direct interest in promoting the wellbeing of its communities. It is also committed to sustainable development practices and supporting practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

7 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS – HEI WHAIWHAKAARO

Council's Vision and Strategic Priorities

As outlined in the draft submission, the application for the waste to energy plant in Te Awamutu is not considered to support the Council's Vision and Strategic Priorities.

Legal and Policy Considerations – Whaiwhakaaro ā-Ture

Staff confirm that Option 2 complies with Council's legal and policy requirements.

Financial Considerations – Whaiwhakaaro ā-Pūtea

Unlike an Environment Court process, the Council's submission to the Board of Inquiry is not considered to pose any significant expense to the Council. The Council's draft submission is high level, and apart from attending a hearing and answering questions from the Board, there should not be additional costs to the Council.

Risks - Tūrarū

Given the high level of public interest in the application, the contents of Council's draft submission could result in negative perceptions of Council and/or negative reputational impact.

8 NEXT ACTIONS

Action	Responsibility	By When
Lodge the Council's submission with the EPA	Strategy	before 5pm, 18 December 2024

9 APPENDIX - ĀPITITANGA

No: 1	Draft Council submission on the application for a waste to energy plant in Te Awamutu (ECM number 11331491)
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Mieke Heyns
STRATEGIC POLICY ADVISOR



Reviewed by Melissa Russo
MANAGER STRATEGY



Approved by Kirsty Downey
GROUP MANAGER STRATEGY

APPENDIX 1

Draft Council submission on the application for a waste to energy plant in Te Awamutu (ECM number 11331491)

Draft Submission

Proposed Te Awamutu Waste to Energy Plant

3 December 2024



Waipā District Council's submission to the Environmental Protection Authority on the application for resource consents by Global Contracting Solutions Limited to construct and operate a Waste to Energy Plant in Te Awamutu.

To: The Environmental Protection Authority

1. This is a submission from Waipā District Council.
2. This is a submission on a matter in relation to which the Minister for the Environment made a direction under Section 142(2) of the Resource Management Act 1991.
3. The matter is the applications by Global Contracting Solutions Limited for resource consents for the construction and operation of a waste to energy plant at 381, 401 and 417 Racecourse Road, Te Awamutu, and specifically:
 - Land Use Consent to permanently operate a waste to energy plant in the Industrial Zone (Specialised Dairy Industrial Area) of the Operative Waipā District Plan; and
 - Discharge of emissions to air associated with operating the plant; and
 - Discharge of stormwater to surface water associated with operating the plant; and
 - Deposition of cleanfill associated with construction of the plant.
4. Waipā District Council would not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
5. This submission relates to the whole of the applications by Global Contracting Solutions Limited as set out in paragraph 3 above.
6. Waipā District Council opposes the whole of the applications for resource consents set out in paragraph 3 above, for the reasons set out in the following pages.
7. Waipā District Council seeks that the Board of Inquiry declines the applications for resource consents by Global Contracting Solutions Limited to construct and operate a Waste to Energy Plant.
8. Waipā District Council wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

Susan O'Regan
Mayor
Waipā District Council

Introduction

1. Waipā District Council (WDC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Board of Inquiry on the Global Contracting Solutions Limited (GCSL) application to develop a waste to energy plant at 381, 401 and 417 Racecourse Road in Te Awamutu (subject site).
2. WDC is responsible for a relatively small but thriving district with a mix of rural and urban communities. The towns of Te Awamutu, Kihikihi and Cambridge are the hub of the surrounding district and its flourishing dairy farming and horticultural industries.
3. The district forms part of the high growth Future Proof Subregion centred on Hamilton City and is strategically positioned in the corridor between Auckland and Tauranga.
4. Under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD), WDC is a tier 1 local authority. The NPS-UD applies to the urban environment of Te Awamutu. The Waipā District Plan has recently been changed to include the medium density residential standards mandated by the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021.
5. The reasons for WDC's submission are addressed under the following headings:
 - General Comments.
 - Social and Community Effects.
 - Interface of Activities and Appropriateness of Location.
 - Iwi and Mana Whenua Specific Considerations.
 - Circular Economy.

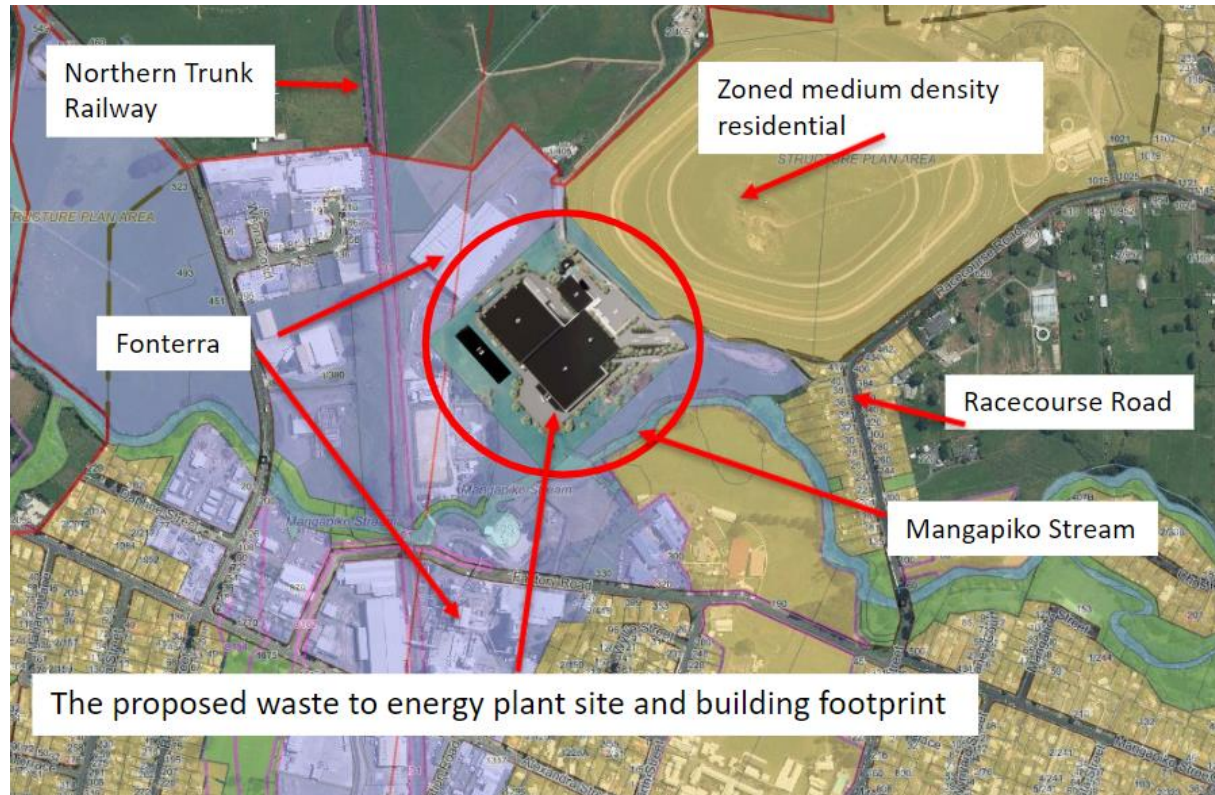
The proposed development, subject site and surrounding environment

6. The key features of the development proposal include:
 - Construction and operation of a large waste to energy plant building to a maximum height of 38m.
 - 24 hour operation.
 - Processing of 480 tonnes of waste transported to the site each day.
 - Earthworks including deposition of fill in a flood hazard area.
7. Having regard to the Waipā District Plan, the subject site:
 - Is located within the Industrial Zone.
 - Is located within the Specialised Dairy Industrial Area associated with Fonterra's Te Awamutu Dairy Processing Site.
 - Adjoins the Mangapiko Stream and is located within a Cultural Landscape Area Alert layer and a Biodiversity Corridor.
 - Forms part of a flood plain associated with the Mangapiko Stream.
 - Adjoins Medium Density Residential zoned land, including an important residential growth cell owned and occupied by Waikato Thoroughbred Racing Incorporated (WTR).

Waipā District Council submission on the Proposed Waste to Energy Plant in Te Awamutu document no. 11331491

- Lies adjacent to and on the opposite side of the Mangapiko Stream from Medium Density Residential zoned land currently used and developed for educational purposes.

Figure 1: Location and zoning context of proposed development



General Comments

8. The growing community of Te Awamutu, “Rose Town”, is home to 14,050 people who live, work and play in the rural town and surrounds. The surrounding landscape is defined by its agricultural and horticultural uses as well as the significant maunga of Kakepuku and Pirongia, and the Mangapiko Stream, a tributary of the Waipā River. The town is important in the local area for providing a variety of education facilities, including a playcentre, primary schools, a high school, kōhanga reo and the original Te Wānanga o Aotearoa. Te Awamutu is the service town for the surrounding agricultural and horticultural producers.
9. The proposed waste to energy plant has generated unprecedented public interest and opposition to a development proposal for Te Awamutu. Hundreds of submissions in opposition to the development have been lodged. This level of participation and engagement sends a clear signal that there is potential for adverse effects associated with the

development which merit consideration. Effects in this sense include any potential effects of low probability with high potential impact.

10. The relief sought by WDC is that the applications for resource consent be declined. The principal reasons for this are that the proposed waste to energy plant:

- will have significant actual and potential adverse effects on the environment, including the social and economic wellbeing and the health and safety of the Te Awamutu community;
- is inconsistent with the strategic direction and the objectives and policies of the relevant planning documents including the NPS-UD, the National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land 2022, the Waikato Regional Policy Statement, Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (Te Ture Whaimana), and the Waipā District Plan;
- is inconsistent with other matters which are relevant and reasonably necessary to the Board of Inquiry's consideration of the applications including WDC's draft Ahu Ake - Waipā Community Spatial Plan, WDC's Waste Minimisation and Management Plan 2023-2029, and the Ministry for the Environment's Te Rautaki Para – Waste Strategy 2023; and
- does not achieve the purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

11. Further detail for the principal reasons referenced above are set out in the following sections of this submission.

Topic 1 - Social and Community Effects

12. The purpose of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) is to provide for democratic and effective local government that recognises the diversity of New Zealand communities. The responsibility of WDC in achieving this includes playing a broad role in "promoting the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing" of the Te Awamutu community (Section 3(d) LGA).

13. WDC's strategic vision¹ is 'Waipā - home of champions, building connected communities'. The related 2021-2031 Long Term Plan aims to create vibrant communities through partnering

¹ From the Waipa 2021 -2031 Long Term Plan

with mana whenua and supporting community groups in ensuring that Waipā is a great place to live, work, play and invest.

14. WDC's draft Ahu Ake - Waipā Community Spatial Plan² focuses on delivering community outcomes that achieve Council's strategic vision and purpose. The Plan is considered by the Council to be its umbrella 'blueprint' strategy for how the district should develop over the next 30+ years. Providing for community wellbeing is a key strand woven throughout Ahu Ake.
15. The purpose of the RMA is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. A key tenant of sustainable management is enabling people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety.
16. In achieving the purpose of the RMA, decision makers are required to have particular regard to:
 - The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values; and
 - Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment.
17. Both matters relate to the concept of social and cultural wellbeing. Amenity values, being *"physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence and cultural and recreational attributes"* are a key determinant of social wellbeing in locations where people live or where future generations are intended to live.
18. In its regulatory capacity, WDC requested the provision of a social impact assessment to enable adequate assessment of effects on social wellbeing to be made. To date this assessment has not been provided.
19. WDC is concerned that the proposal poses actual and potential effects on the health and wellbeing of those who live, learn, work and play in the locality of the proposed waste to energy site, and the wider district. This includes concerns about:
 - The proposal is located in close proximity to several education facilities. The location of the proposal could result in people choosing education facilities further away due to the stigma and actual or potential mental and physical health effects of the proposal. This would involve longer travel times, potentially out of the district, to attend similar education facilities elsewhere. This would be a detriment to the town

² At the time of writing the Ahu Ake Community Spatial Plan was still in draft with the submission period having closed.

in terms of loss of pupils, demographic shift, reduced commercial activity and retail spending.

- The exposure of people, environment and animals to discharges to the air (including how these interact with rainfall) in the short term as well as long-term exposure, the consequences of which may not yet be well-known due to the relatively new technology. Te Awamutu and surrounds promotes a lifestyle that encourages interaction with outdoor activities, such as growing your own food and the keeping of chickens for eggs. The actual or potential physical and mental health effects of the proposal on these activities should be considered.
- The agricultural and horticultural practices surrounding Te Awamutu are the lifeblood of the district. Actual and potential contamination and stigma associated with a waste to energy plant, could be detrimental to Waipā's agricultural and horticultural sectors.

Summary of reasons relating to social and community effects

20. The relief sought by WDC is that resource consent be declined. The reasons for this are:

- The applicant has provided insufficient information to enable an informed decision on the actual and potential social and health effects of the proposed waste to energy plant to be made. In particular, no social impact assessment has been provided.
- Granting consent to the proposal will not promote the sustainable management of the environment in this location. The nature of the activity, its operational characteristics and its proximity to residential areas, will not enable the people or the community of Te Awamutu to provide for their social, economic or cultural wellbeing.
- Despite mitigation measures proposed by the applicant, the proposal will not maintain or enhance amenity values or the quality of the environment in the proximity of the subject site.
- Given the sensitive nature of the receiving environment, a precautionary approach should be applied to future health effects which could have high potential impact even if there may be a low probability of these occurring.
- Insufficient information has been provided to give reassurance that the proposal will not cause actual and potential short-term and long-term effects on the physical and

mental health and wellbeing of those who live, learn, work and play in the locality of the waste to energy site, and the wider district.

- The potential stigma associated with the proposal could cause loss of pupils, demographic shift, reduced commercial activity and retail spending, and detrimental effects on Waipā's agricultural and horticultural sectors.

Topic 2 – Interface of activities and location

21. Despite the industrial zoning, WDC is concerned that the subject site is not an appropriate location for the proposed waste to energy plant to be located. There are a number of reasons for this concern which are set out below under the following headings:

- Specialised Dairy Industrial Area
- Impacts on neighbouring land use

Specialised Dairy Industrial Area

22. The subject site is located within both the Industrial Zone and the Specialised Dairy Industrial Area (SDIA). The objectives and policies that apply to this area seek to ensure that:

- The industrial zone is developed in a manner that protects the ability for the Te Awamutu Dairy Manufacturing Site to continue to operate and expand; and
- Activities on surrounding sites within the SDIA are managed where they could adversely affect the operation of Dairy Manufacturing Sites.

23. This policy direction represents the clear intention of WDC to protect the existing established industry from activities which may be incompatible with food processing activities undertaken by Fonterra.

24. WDC is concerned that the proposed waste to energy plant and its associated discharges may not be compatible with the Te Awamutu Dairy Manufacturing Site and are therefore contrary to the policy direction of the district plan.

Impacts on Neighbouring Land Use

25. The policy direction set for the Industrial Zone is to manage effects beyond the Industrial Zone (Objective 7.3.3) and to protect the amenity of surrounding areas (Policy 7.3.3.2).

26. Land to the immediate north of the subject site which is owned and occupied by Waikato Thoroughbred Racing Incorporated (WTR), is located within the Medium Density Residential

Zone (MDRZ). This land could be developed under the provisions of the MDRZ at any time without requirement for development of a structure plan. There are no rules in the MDRZ which specify buffer areas in relation to the Industrial Zone boundary.

27. There is high demand for housing in Te Awamutu. Greenfield growth areas such as the WTR land are expected to yield between 25 – 35 dwellings per hectare. WDC is limited in identifying new urban areas because of the restrictions imposed by the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022.
28. Therefore, it is important to WDC that all existing zoned and infrastructure-enabled land can be developed to its full extent and that resultant development contributes to a well-functioning urban environment. This has the potential to be compromised by the proposed waste to energy plant.
29. The subject site is also located within the Biodiversity Corridor alongside the Mangapiko Stream. The applicant has provided insufficient information to enable assessment of whether the proposed waste to energy plant will have adverse effects on significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna, including the native long-tailed bat.

Summary of reasons relating to interface of activities and location

30. The relief sought by WDC is that resource consent be declined. The reasons for this are:
- Insufficient information has been provided to confirm that the proposed waste to energy plant is compatible with the activities of the Te Awamutu Dairy Manufacturing site and other activities within the SDIA.
 - Insufficient information has been provided to confirm that the proposed waste to energy plant is appropriately located and designed to ensure that the amenity of surrounding areas is protected.
 - Development of the proposed waste to energy plant on the subject site may compromise the ability for adjoining greenfield medium density zoned land to be developed to its full extent and to contribute to a well-functioning urban environment.
 - The proposed waste to energy plant is not an appropriate use of the subject site when considered in terms of neighbouring land use activities and environmental constraints.

- Insufficient information has been provided to assess whether the proposed waste to energy plant will have adverse effects on significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna, including the native long-tailed bat.

Topic 3 - Iwi and Mana Whenua specific considerations

31. A Cultural Landscape Area Alert layer applies to the subject site due to its proximity to the Mangapiko Stream. The stream is subject to Te Ture Whaimana as a tributary of the Waipā River.
32. Te Ture Whaimana puts the Waikato and Waipā Rivers at the heart of planning, an approach reflected in WDC's District Plan, partnerships with iwi, mana whenua and the Future Proof Strategy.
33. Te Ture Whaimana seeks to take a whole of catchment approach to restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipā Rivers, the relationship of Waikato River iwi to the river, and the ecosystems that depend on these areas.
34. In its regulatory capacity, WDC requested further information from the applicant in relation to iwi and mana whenua considerations. To date this assessment has not been provided.

Summary of reasons relating to iwi and mana whenua considerations

35. The relief sought by WDC is that the Board of Inquiry ensures all potential effects on the Mangapiko Stream arising from the proposed waste to energy plant and the requirement to give effect to Te Ture Whaimana are taken into account in making a decision. In particular:
 - The assessment against Te Ture Whaimana does not adequately take into consideration all of the potential effects the proposal may have on the Mangapiko Stream. The assessment provided appears to conclude that the proposal will result in the "betterment" of the Waikato River and its catchment due to restoration planting and retirement of the land from farming.
 - The assessment does not appear to consider the new purpose of the land for heavy industry. WDC considers that information should be provided on the mitigation measures proposed for:
 - run-off from flood events
 - potential firefighting practice or events
 - interaction of rain and air discharges effects on the water quality and ecology of the Mangapiko Stream.

Topic 4 - Circular economy

Waipā District Council submission on the Proposed Waste to Energy Plant in Te Awamutu document no. 11331491

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37. The applicant considers the proposed plant to be part of the solution to reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. WDC supports the intent of the application to provide a stopgap to deal with landfill waste until a circular economy is operating sufficiently; however, this view does not appear to fully consider the flow on effects, alternative issues such a proposal raises, and direction setting by WDC and Central Government. Environmental sustainability must be a cornerstone of all decision making particularly if the country is seeking projects that deliver long term benefits.
38. WDC is concerned that the proposal does not align with moving to a circular economy. Key documents of relevance are the WDC's Waste Minimisation and Management Plan 2023 – 2029 (WMMP), which WDC is required to prepare under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Ministry for the Environment Te Rautaki Para – Waste Strategy 2023 (Waste Strategy). Both documents call for moving towards a circular economy. The concern is that by incinerating waste as feedstock it discourages moving towards a circular economy. The plant will require feedstock to stay operational and full landfills can act as a trigger for action.
39. The proposal uses technology that is new to New Zealand and the Waste Strategy advocates a precautionary approach to using waste to energy technologies until their benefits have been tested and proven³. While waste to energy plants are quite widely used around the world to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, there is growing concern that discharges can have negative effects on the surrounding environment.
40. The proposal does not align with local, national and international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. WDC's 2021-2031 Long Term Plan acknowledges the need to adapt and mitigate in the community outcome "we are responsive to climate change". WDC does not believe the proposal is an appropriate way to respond to climate change with the greenhouse gas outputs expected to be significant. Nationally, the Climate Change Response Act 2002 requires all greenhouse gases, other than biogenic methane, to reach net zero by 2050. The Act enables New Zealand's obligations under the Paris Agreement, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Kyoto Protocol.
41. Future waste to energy proposals will trigger similar issues due to the lack of Central Government direction on transitioning to a circular economy. The National Infrastructure Plan, currently under development, is an opportunity to provide national direction on the purpose and location of waste to energy plants.

Summary of reasons relating to circular economy

37. The relief sought by WDC is that resource consent be declined. The reasons for this are:

³ Page 9 of the Ministry for Environment Waste Strategy (2023)

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- The proposal does not align with moving towards a circular economy as required by WDC's Waste Minimisation and Management Plan 2023 – 2029 and the Ministry for the Environment Te Rautaki Para – Waste Strategy 2023.
 - WDC believes insufficient information has been provided for decision making. In particular:
 - As per a further information request from WDC dated 11 October 2023 – has any engagement been undertaken with local councils in terms of the supply of municipal waste and if any contracts have been confirmed?
 - Where will the ash that is generated be disposed of?
 - Where will the washdown water be disposed of?
 - Is there a discontinuation plan if the plant was no longer viable?
 - The proposal does not align with national and international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Central Government must provide direction on appropriate locations and the position of waste to energy plants in the move to a circular economy.



TE AWAMUTU - HEAD OFFICE

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23 Wilson Street, Cambridge Ph 07 823 3800

[f](#)/WaipaDistrictCouncil [@](#)/Waipa_NZ [t](#)/Waipa_DC

COMMITTEE REPORT



INFORMATION ONLY

To: The Chairperson and Members of the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee

From: Senior Strategic Policy Advisor

Subject: **2025-34 Long Term Plan Project Update**

Meeting Date: 3 December 2024

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA

This report provides Elected Members with an update on how the 2025-34 Long Term Plan (LTP) project is progressing. Over the last month, staff have been focusing on refining significant forecasting assumptions, developing the LTP budget and progressing work on the draft Financial Strategy and funding and financing policies.

2 RECOMMENDATION – TŪTOHU Ā-KAIMAHI

That the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee receives the report of Anthea Sayer, Senior Strategic Policy Advisor, titled '2025-34 Long Term Plan Project Update,' (document number 11324759).

3 COMMENTARY - KŌRERO

The table below outlines the workstreams that make up the LTP and notes progress made as well as what's coming up. This update will be provided at every Strategic Planning and Policy Committee meeting until the LTP is adopted in June 2025.

Key Building Blocks		Update	Status
1	Strategic framework	Elected Members agreed to retain the Strategic Framework from the 2024-34 LTP at the June 2024 Strategic Planning and Policy Committee.	Completed
2	Group of activities structure	The group of activities structure was approved at the June 2024 Strategic Planning and Policy Committee.	Completed

Key Building Blocks		Update	Status
3	Significant forecasting assumptions	Non-financial assumptions were considered by Elected Members at a workshop in June 2024 and then again in November along with the financial assumptions. Only minor changes were requested. The updated assumptions will be presented to Council for approval in December.	On track
4	Significance and Engagement Policy	Elected Members agreed to retain the current policy at the June 2024 Strategic Planning and Policy Committee with a view to undertaking a full review as part of the 2027-37 LTP.	Completed
5	Budgeting process	The first version of the budget was presented to Elected Members in August. Since then, a series of workshops have taken place to refine the budget and financial benchmarks with another workshop scheduled for December. The status of this deliverable has moved from 'monitor' to 'actively monitor' due to the budget taking longer than anticipated to finalise and limited contingency available.	Actively monitor
6	Financial and funding policies	These policies include the Revenue and Financing Policy, Rates Remission Policy and Treasury Management Policy. The policies were largely completed as part of the 2024-34 LTP however, minor changes have been made for this LTP. The policies were workshopped with Elected Members in November 2024 with requested changes currently being incorporated. The updated policies will be presented to Elected Members for approval in December.	On track
7	Financial Strategy	The Financial Strategy was discussed at workshops in August, October and November with another workshop scheduled for December. The status of this deliverable has moved from 'monitor' to 'actively monitor' due to the budget (which directly relates to the strategy) taking longer than anticipated to finalise and limited contingency available.	Actively monitor
8	Infrastructure Strategy	The Infrastructure Strategy was largely completed as part of the 2024-34 LTP with only minor changes required for the 2025-34 LTP. The strategy will be workshopped with Elected Members in December 2024.	Monitor

Key Building Blocks		Update	Status
		The status of this deliverable has moved from 'on track' to 'monitor' due to the budget taking longer than anticipated to finalise and limited contingency available. The budget directly feeds into the strategy.	
9	Development Contributions Policy	This policy was largely completed as part of the 2024-34 LTP. The draft policy was workshopped with Elected Members in September 2024. Development contribution fees will be presented to Elected Members in December 2024.	On track
10	Activity management planning	Activity Management Plans were largely completed as part of the 2024-34 LTP and Audit is currently reviewing them. Performance measures for this LTP will be presented to Elected Members for feedback in December.	On track
11	Consultation and engagement	Regular reporting to the Te Awamutu/Kihikihi and Cambridge community boards and the Pirongia Ward Committee is taking place. A project update was presented at the July and October Waikato-Tainui Co-Governance meetings. The feedback from engagement on Ahu Ake – Waipā Community Spatial Plan has been used in place of any separate LTP early engagement. The status of this deliverable has been moved from 'on track' to 'monitor' to reflect the time it is taking to finalise a budget. This impacts on the ability to confidently develop consultation topics as planned.	Monitor

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