

**Hamilton City Council Submission**

# **Enviro NZ Services Limited – Hampton Downs Landfill Consent Renewal**

**Waikato Regional Council**

**13 April 2026**

## Strategic Context for this Feedback

Council has endorsed [The Mayor's Plan 2025 - 2028](#) to inform the projects and services it will deliver to ensure Hamilton has what it needs now and for the future – efficiently, responsibly, and sustainably. The seven guiding themes of The Mayor's Plan are:

- **Sensible, cost-effective infrastructure**
- **Grow with balance**
- **A central city to be proud of**
- **City places and services that work for people**
- **Open for business**
- **A transparent and efficient organisation**
- **Financial responsibility**

## Council Approval and Status

This submission was approved by the Chair and Deputy Chair of Hamilton City Council's City Delivery Committee on behalf of the Council on 13 April 2026. It does not, therefore, constitute a formally adopted Council position.

Submission # 835

## Key Messages

1. **We support in principle resource consent application APP145847 by Enviro NZ Services Limited (Enviro NZ)** subject to continued strong environmental performance and appropriate consent conditions, to the Waikato Regional Council to replace existing resource consents for the continued discharge of refuse to land and associated diversion of stormwater and groundwater, groundwater and surface water take, discharge of leachate to land, treated stormwater to land and water, and contaminants to air at Hampton Downs Landfill.
2. We consider Hampton Downs Landfill to be essential regional infrastructure that supports the effective and environmentally responsible management of solid waste for Hamilton City and the wider upper North Island.
3. We contract Enviro NZ to provide kerbside refuse and recycling collection services, including the disposal of solid waste at Hampton Downs Landfill. Continued access to Hampton Downs Landfill is critical for service delivery, and Council also has an interest in ensuring that long-term access remains cost-effective and does not constrain future waste management decisions. Without the continuation of the current consents, residual waste from Hamilton would need to be transported outside the Waikato Region, resulting in increased transport costs, higher greenhouse gas emissions, and reduced resilience in waste infrastructure.
4. We consider the proposal to be consistent with the efficient use of existing infrastructure, sound environmental management, regional waste minimisation objectives, and the ongoing delivery of essential public services.

## Introduction

5. Hamilton City Council welcomes the opportunity to **support in principle the application** lodged with the Waikato Regional Council by Enviro NZ Services Limited (Enviro NZ) to replace existing Resource Consents for the continued discharge of refuse to land and associated diversion of stormwater and groundwater, groundwater and surface water take, discharge of leachate to land, treated stormwater to land and water, and contaminants to air at Hampton Downs Landfill.
6. Council considers Hampton Downs Landfill to be essential regional infrastructure that supports the effective and environmentally responsible management of solid waste for Hamilton City and the wider upper North Island.

## Council's Interest in the Application

7. Hamilton City Council contracts Enviro NZ to provide kerbside refuse and recycling collection services, manage waste from Council facilities, and operate the Lincoln Street Resource Recovery Centre. Under this contractual arrangement, Enviro NZ also provides for the disposal of residual waste generated by these services, which is disposed of at the Hampton Downs Landfill.
8. The current contract expires in 2030, with rights of renewal for a further two years (one plus one). Continued access to Hampton Downs Landfill is therefore critical to Council's ability to deliver statutory and contractually required waste services to the Hamilton community.

## Importance of Hampton Downs Landfill to the Region

9. Hampton Downs is the only Enviro NZ-operated landfill in the Waikato Region and is the only facility within the region capable of accepting the volumes of refuse generated by Hamilton City. Without the continuation of the current consents, residual waste from Hamilton would need to be

transported outside the Waikato Region, resulting in increased transport costs, higher greenhouse gas emissions, and reduced resilience in waste infrastructure.

10. The landfill has been serving the Waikato, Bay of Plenty, and Auckland regions since 2005 and is designed, consented, constructed, and operated to safely manage up to 30 million cubic metres of waste. As of now, approximately 14 million cubic metres of waste has been received, and the landfill is not expected to reach its design capacity until around 2055. The application seeks a 35-year consent term to enable completion of the landfill as originally planned, without any increase to the approved waste volume or expansion of the established boundaries. Given the length of the proposed consent term, Council would expect appropriate review points over time to ensure continued environmental performance and operational outcomes continue to meet expectations.

## Environmental Performance and Management

11. Council acknowledges that Hampton Downs Landfill operates as a modern Class 1 landfill, subject to stringent environmental and safety standards. The landfill is located within low-permeability clay geology and incorporates highly engineered containment systems, including layered liner systems designed to isolate waste from the surrounding environment. Council's support is based on the continuation of this level of performance and ongoing transparent monitoring and reporting.
12. Monitoring results indicate that the liner system is functioning as designed, with groundwater monitoring confirming effective containment. Leachate generated onsite is collected and transported to the Māngere Wastewater Treatment Plant for appropriate treatment and disposal. Stormwater and surface water are managed through a comprehensive monitoring and treatment system, ensuring protection of receiving environments.
13. Council also notes the landfill's strong performance in gas capture, with more than 90 percent of methane collected and utilised to generate renewable electricity. This energy powers onsite operations, with surplus generation exported to the national grid, contributing to New Zealand's renewable energy supply.

## Biodiversity, Cultural Engagement, and Community Benefits

14. Council recognises Enviro NZ's efforts to support biodiversity values at Hampton Downs, including the creation of constructed wetlands that provide habitat for the nationally significant black mudfish, a species unique to Aotearoa New Zealand.
15. Council also acknowledges Enviro NZ's partnership with Ngā Muka, representing mana whenua marae within Waikato-Tainui, and the role of this partnership in guiding cultural, environmental, and social considerations at the site. Engagement with mana whenua aligns with the Council's own commitments to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and kaitiakitanga.
16. Enviro NZ's contribution to community wellbeing through funding of environmental, education, and sports initiatives, and the provision of local employment and training opportunities, is also recognised as a positive outcome of the landfill's continued operation.

## Conclusion

17. Hamilton City Council supports Enviro NZ's application in principle to replace the existing Waikato Regional Council resource consents for the Hampton Downs Landfill. Council considers the proposal to be consistent with the efficient use of existing infrastructure, sound environmental management, regional waste minimisation objectives, and the ongoing delivery of essential public services.
18. Council therefore recommends that Waikato Regional Council grant the requested consents, subject to conditions that are at least as robust as the existing consent framework and appropriate for the duration of the consent.

## Further Information, Hearings, and Opportunity to Discuss our Submission

19. Should the Waikato Regional Council require clarification of the submission from Hamilton City Council, or additional information, please contact **Sarah Wilson** (Director of Resource Recovery – Infrastructure and Assets) on **027 808 0246**, or email [Sarah.Wilson@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:Sarah.Wilson@hcc.govt.nz) in the first instance.
20. Although **we do not wish to speak at the hearings**, Hamilton City Council representatives would welcome the opportunity to discuss the content of this submission in more detail with the Waikato Regional Council.

Yours faithfully



**Councillor Sarah Thomson**  
**Chair of the City Delivery Committee**

Yours faithfully



**Councillor Mesh Macdonald**  
**Deputy Chair of the City Delivery Committee**

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Hamilton City Council  
Garden Place, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton

-  /hamiltoncitycouncil
-  @hamiltoncitycouncil
-  07 838 6699

**hamilton.govt.nz**