

# A 'how to guide' for securing 35 year WASTEWATER discharge consents

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# What's this session all about?



- A retrospective debrief of how Watercare obtained 35 year WWTP discharge consents
- The questions poised and challenges overcome
- This is not about:
  - Short-cutting the process
  - Providing a cook-book for success



# Why did we do it?

- Growth, expiring consents and strategic alignment
- Reduced investment risk
- Better environmental outcomes
- Clear improvement pathways
- Resource optimisation

# What did we need to consider?



- Mana whenua engagement
- Planning framework
- Case law
- Technical investigations
- Effects assessment

# What made it different?



- Mana whenua engagement from the start
- Unwavering alignment with strategy
- Collaboration through consultation
- Adaptive management solutions
- Consent conditions give security to applicant, regulator, mana whenua and community

# What were the challenges?



- Growth & increased discharge volume/mass
- Management of uncertainty
- Complex planning framework and case law
- Alignment of community expectations
- Presenting a coherent & compelling story

# Was it successful?



- Six 35 year WWTP discharge consents granted over past 3 years
- Consistent consent conditions
- Monitoring & Technology reviews
- Community liaison and Mana Whenua collaboration
- Strategic alignment

# Is it right for you?



- Know what success looks like
- Listen and adapt
- Have a long term vision
- Build a strong expert team
- Aim high and deliver



“We cannot solve our problems with the same kind of thinking we used when we created them”

-Albert Einstein

Thank you – Feel free to reach out

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