Helensville and Parakai Wastewater Servicing Project

Community Engagement

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Feb 2026

Watercare

Agenda

Karakia Whakatuwhera (Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara)

- Why we are here
- Local Context
- Project Outcomes
- Helensville and Parakai Servicing Strategy
- Potential Options and Optioneering Process
- Where we are
- What's Next
- Community Input

Karakia Whakamutunga (Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara)

Speak to our experts - Q&A and Map Commentary

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Why we are here

Planning ahead for wastewater services in Helensville–Parakai

- Wastewater is essential for community health and the environment
- Our role is to make sure services remain **safe, reliable, and affordable**
- Tonight is about **sharing what we know, what we're planning, and how you can be involved**

Figure 2 - Te Awaroa (Helensville) and Parakai servicing strategy area

Local Context

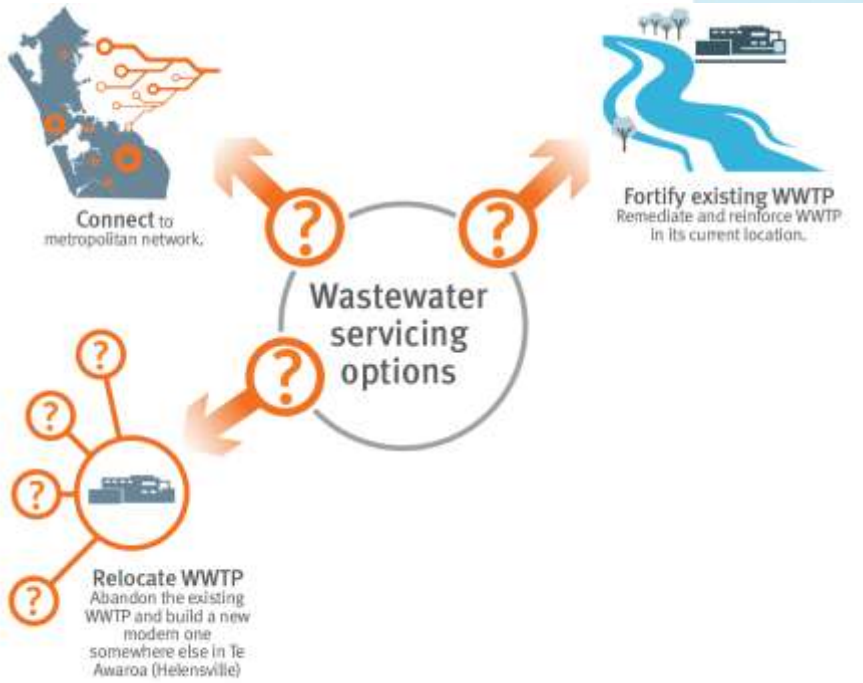
Planning responsibly for Helensville–Parakai

- The Wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) sits in a **low-lying area**
- **Frequent flooding** affects the area today
- **Sea level rise** modelling indicates increasing long-term risk
- Potential impacts are projected **from around 2035–2040**
- Planning now supports future generations and essential services

Helensville and Parakai Wastewater Servicing

Project Outcomes - Future proofed pathway for Wastewater

- A **clear long-term direction** for wastewater servicing in Helensville-Parakai.
- Aligned and builds on the Helensville and Parakai Servicing Strategy
- A tested understanding of viable servicing options, including: **Fortify** existing WWTP, **Relocate** to a new site, and **Connect** to the Metropolitan wastewater network area.
- **Future needs provided for**, with planning based on a 2035-2040 horizon
- **Early planning enabled**, including potential site purchase and designation
- A **preferred approach identified through a robust, transparent optioneering process**.
- **Community input reflected** in the process.



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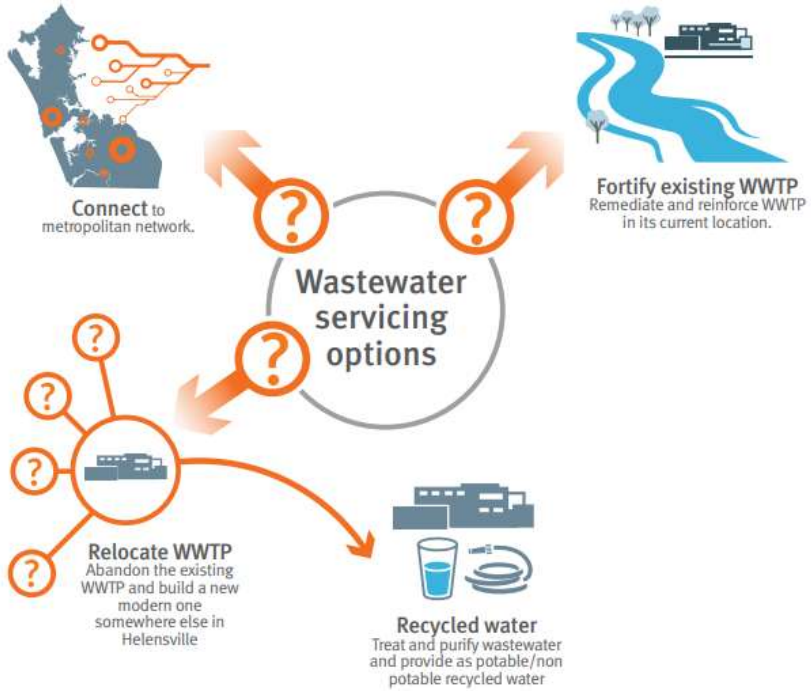
Helensville and Parakai Servicing Strategy 2024

Te Rautaki Whakarato a Helensville me Parakai – Long term planning (50+ years)

Vision and mission, goals and objectives

Identified Options



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Community Engagement

We're involving the community early to:

- Help shape decisions from the start
- Share clear, current information
- Be open and transparent

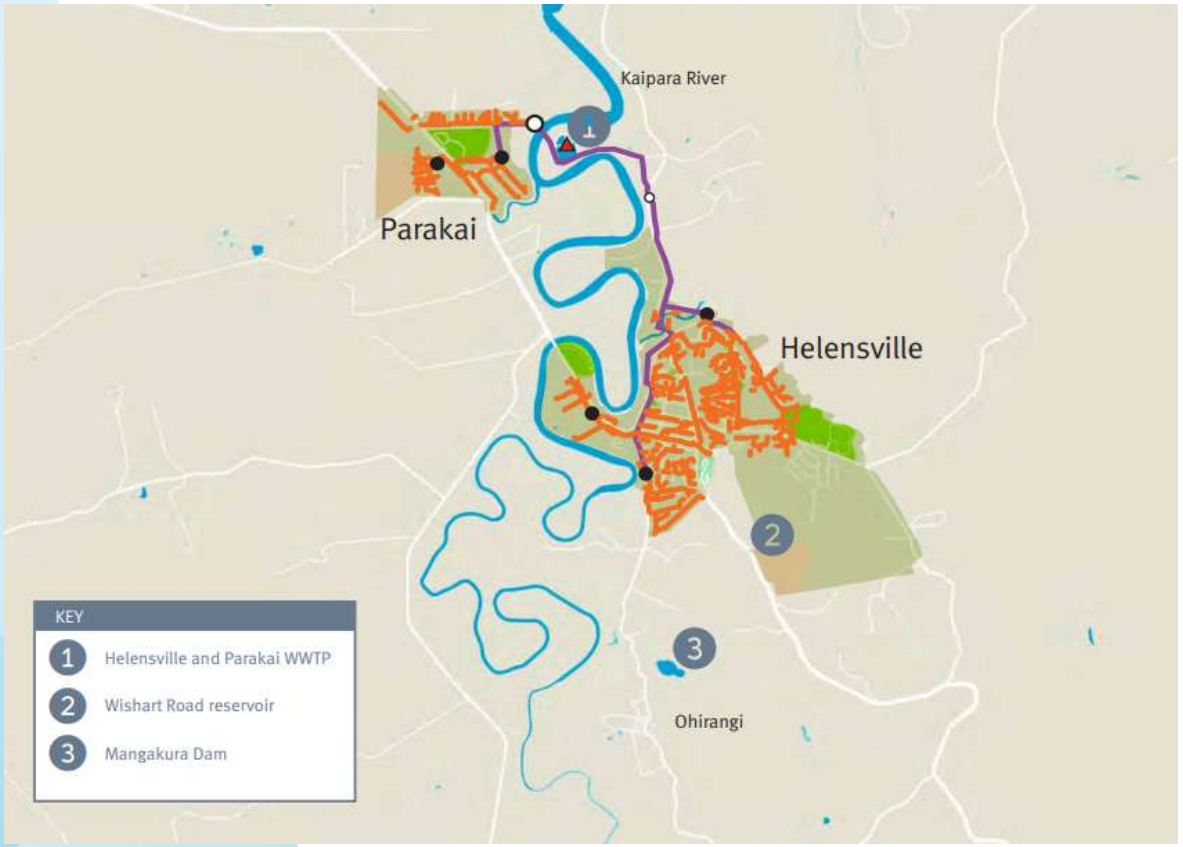
How community input helps:

- **Clarify** local priorities
- Identify **insights** or **considerations** around the potential suitable sites
- Surface **concerns** that need to be address
- **Test and improve** options
- **Questions** that help test our thinking

Have we missed anything? We want to hear about it.

Current Wastewater Servicing

Helensville and Parakai Wastewater Network



Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgraded in 2023

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Wastewater servicing potential options

Options Assessed

Fortify existing WWTP
Remediate and reinforce WWTP in its current location.

Long-term strengthening of the current site is **not feasible** due to ground conditions

Short-term operation will continue, with fortification of the access road

The timing of any future move depends on sea level rise and will be monitored

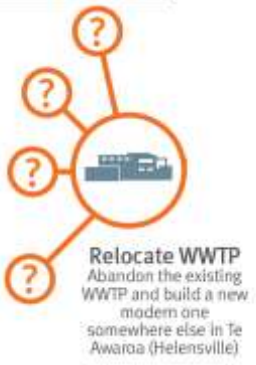
2

Connect to metropolitan network.

Multiple options considered with engineering evaluation this is **not a viable** option.

The pipelines required are so long that wastewater would remain in the pipes up to several days leading to septic conditions causing Odour and Ongoing Maintenance issues

3



Relocate WWTP
Abandon the existing WWTP and build a new modern one somewhere else in Te Awaroa (Helensville)

A thorough technical assessment has been completed to **identify sites that could meet the requirements** for a new wastewater treatment plant. Through this optioneering process, a shortlist of potential sites has been identified.

We are now seeking community input to help inform the next stage of decision-making

71

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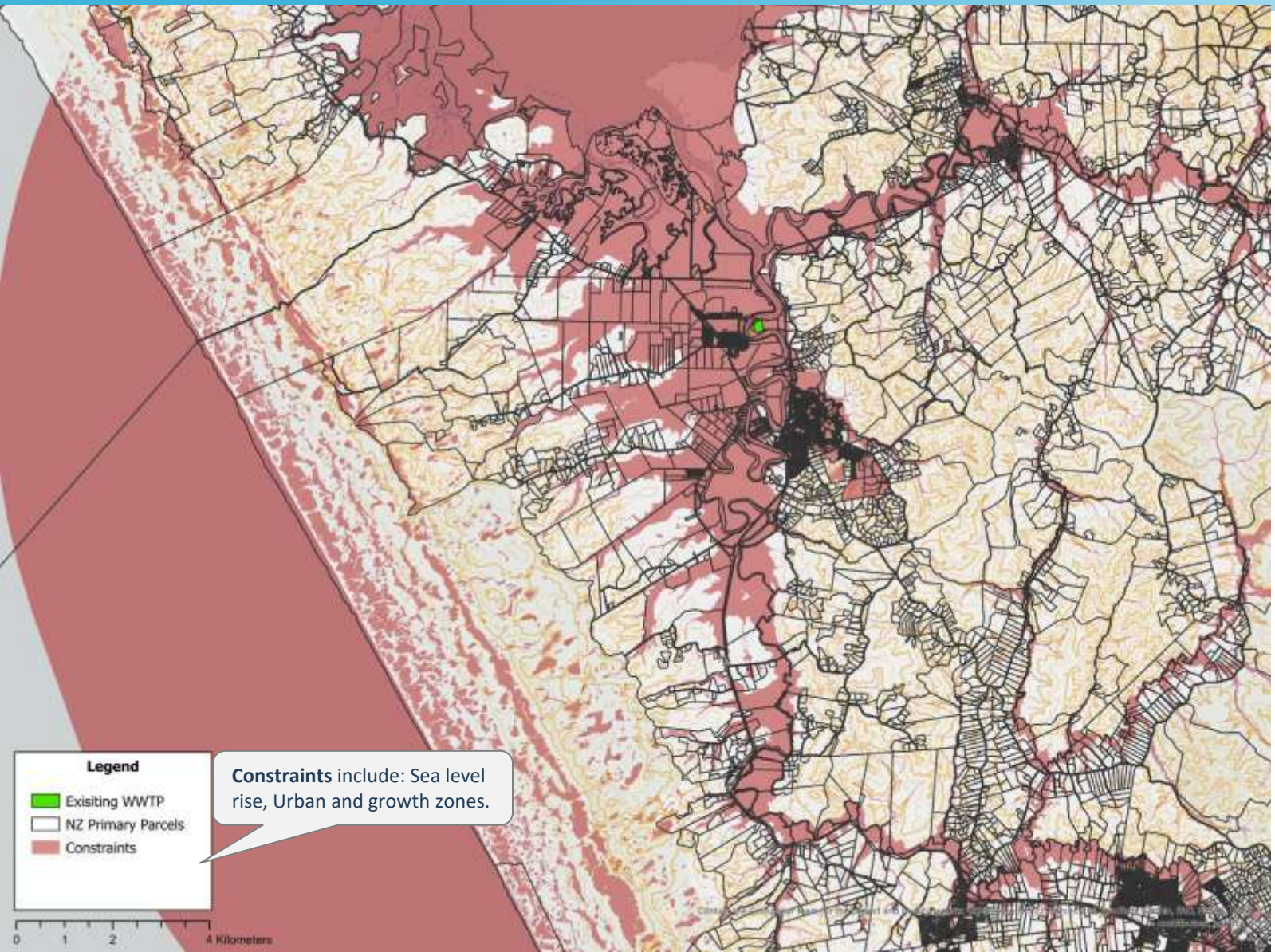
Optioneering: Land suitable for assessment



What a new wastewater treatment plant site needs

The proposed WWTP site be located on **single land parcel** to support long-term wastewater servicing needs.

Land area: about **2.75 hectares**, designed to:

- Allows for future population growth
- Provides flexibility for changes in treatment technology
- Includes space for storage ponds as required

Buffer area: Indicative footprint of about **32 hectares** to manage potential effects and protect surrounding land uses.

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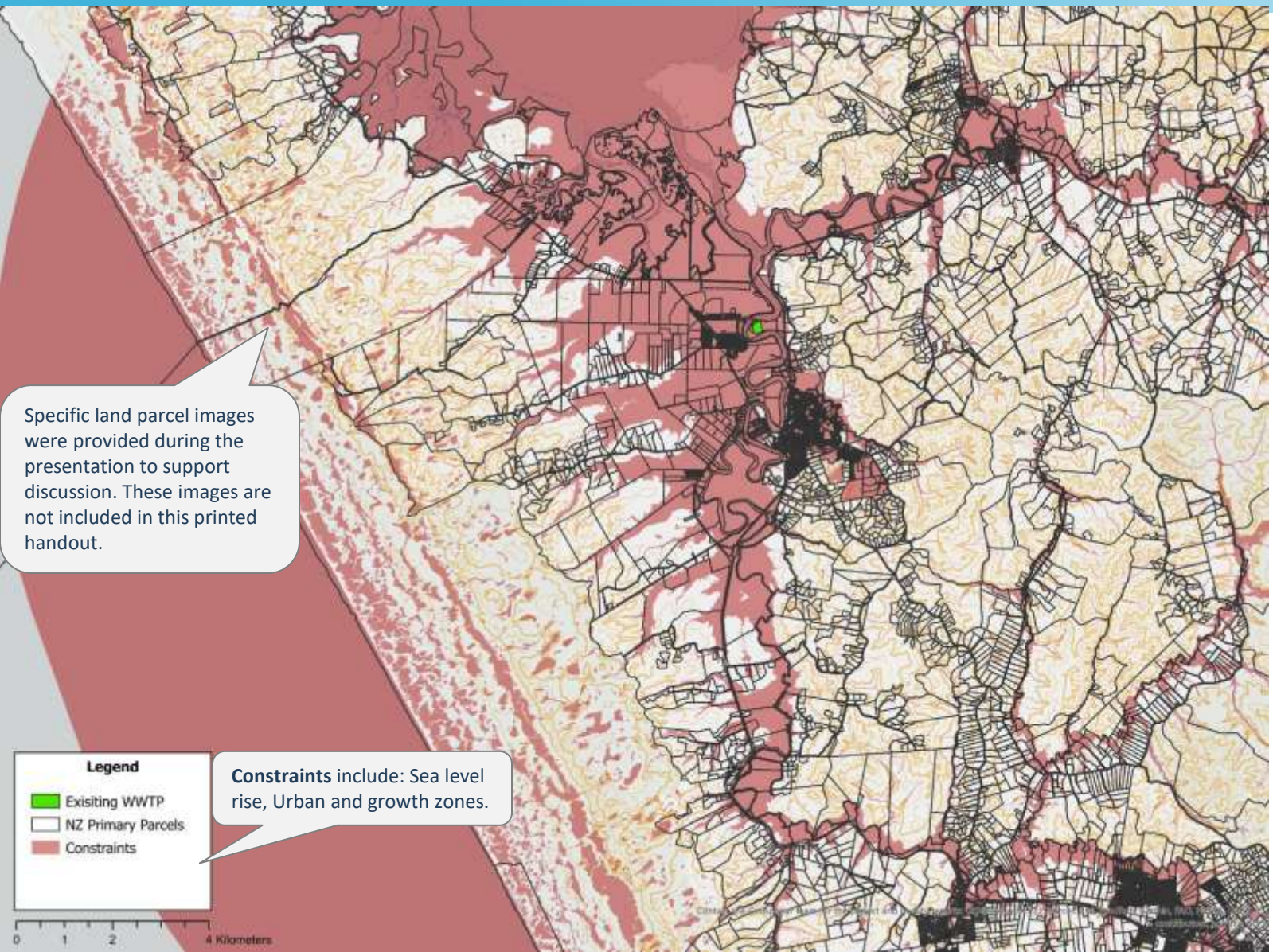
Optioneering: 71 Land Parcels

Please note the image differs from presentation



Using the site requirements to identify potential locations

Key criteria applied - Sites are:

- **Outside flood-prone areas**
  - Not affected by flooding or coastal inundation
  - Based on a future sea level 1 metre higher than today
- **Away from homes** and **planned urban** areas
- **Below 60 metres** in elevation
- **Within 8 km** of the existing wastewater network
- **A single parcel**: Large enough to allow for the treatment plant and a buffer area.

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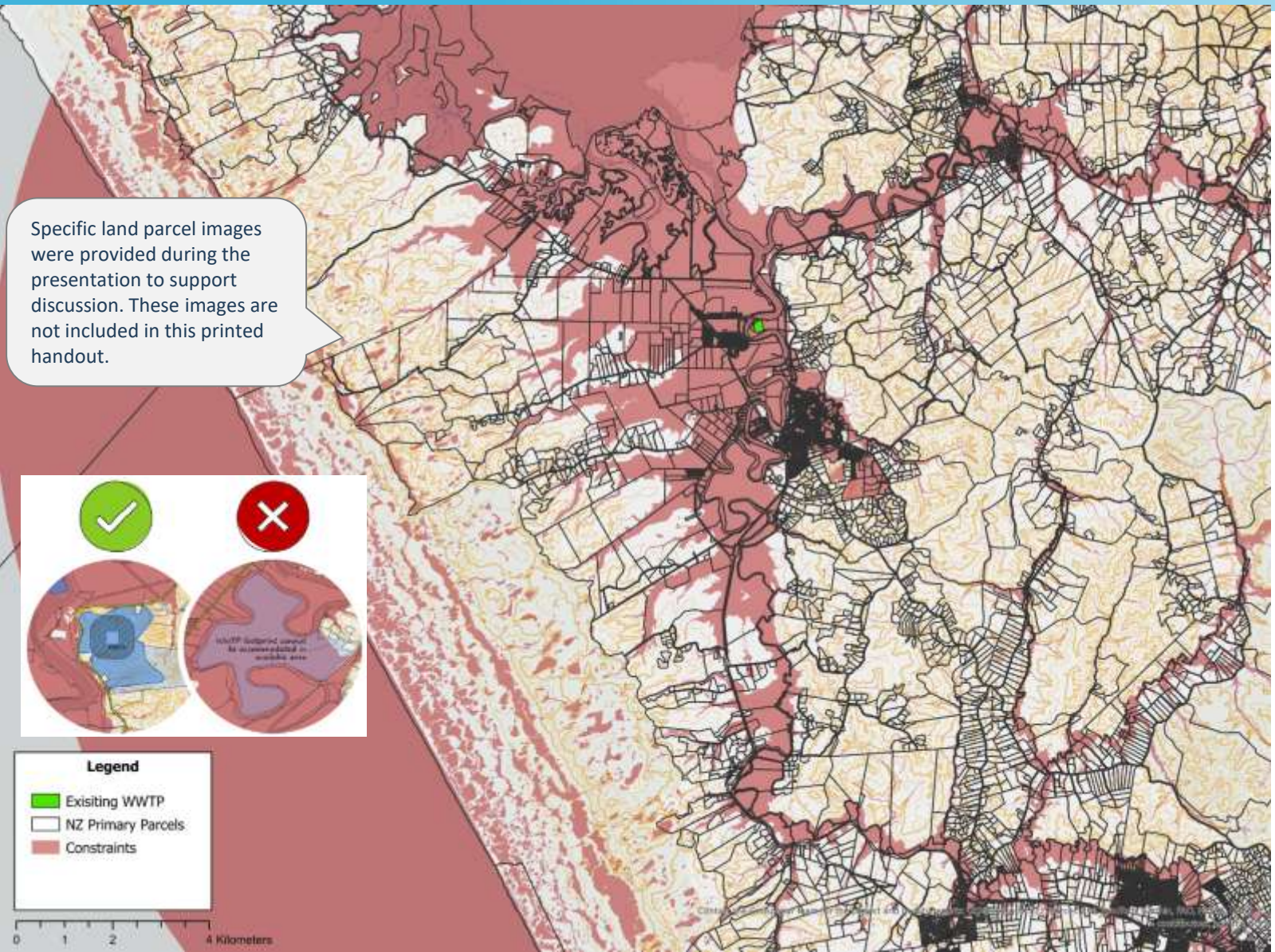
Optioneering: 33 Land Parcels



From 71 to 33 potential sites

An initial screening was used to check whether each site could **physically work** for a wastewater treatment plant. We checked:

- The **size and shape** of each land parcel
- Whether there was enough usable **space for the treatment plant** and the **required buffer area**
- Practical limitations related to the location and layout of the land

Only sites that could **physically meet these requirements** were carried forward.

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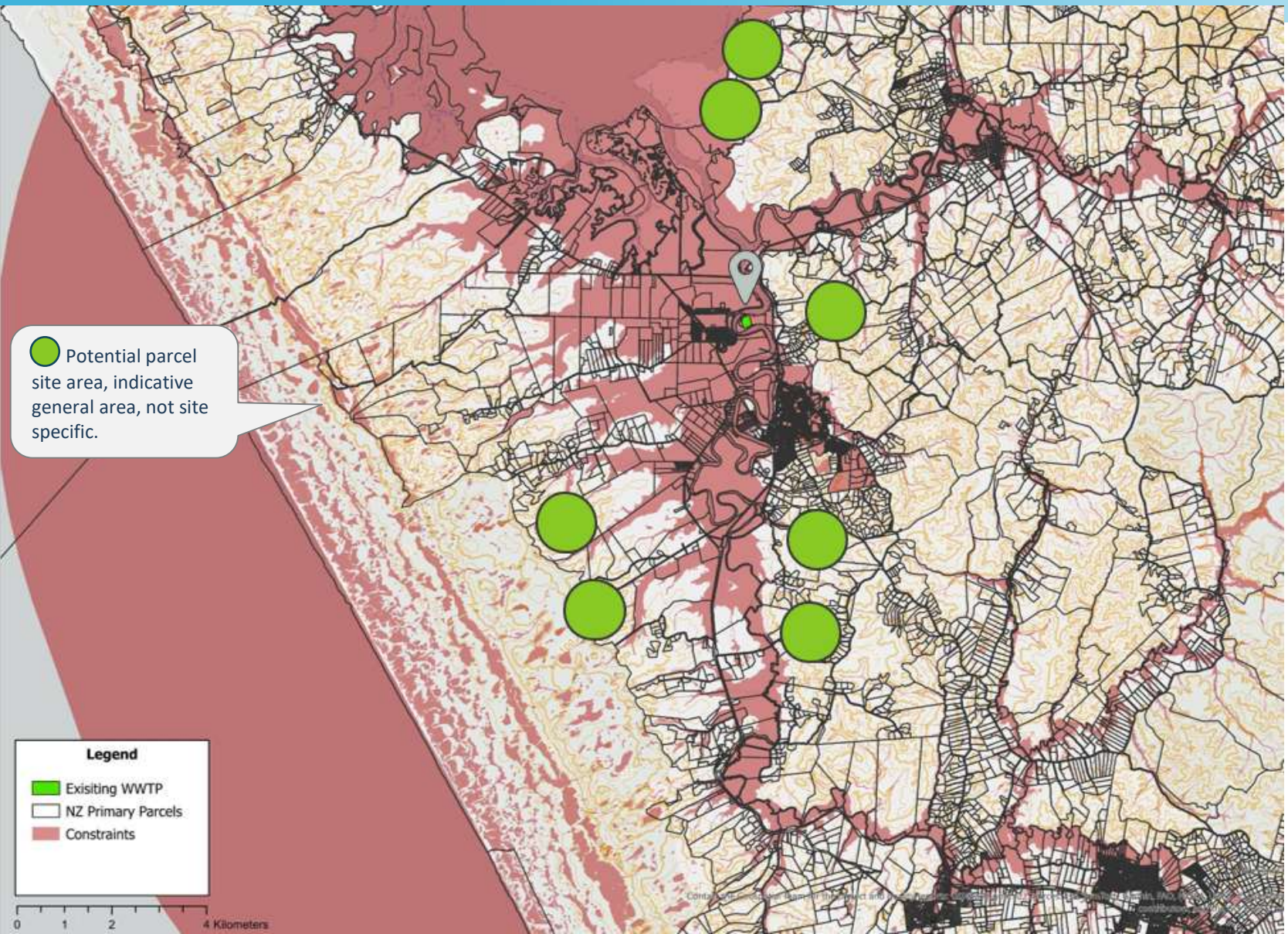
Optioneering: 7 land Parcels



From 33 to 7 potential sites

Reviewed in more detail to identify any suitability constraints

- **Māori freehold land**
- **Gradient / steepness** of the site
- **Road access** for construction and operational needs
- **Geology** and **ground** conditions
- **Liquefaction** risk
- **Overland flow paths** and potential flooding

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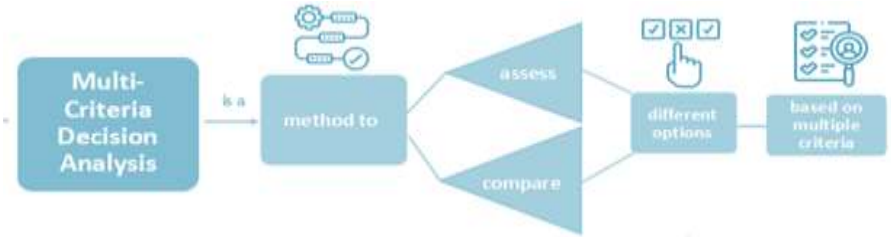
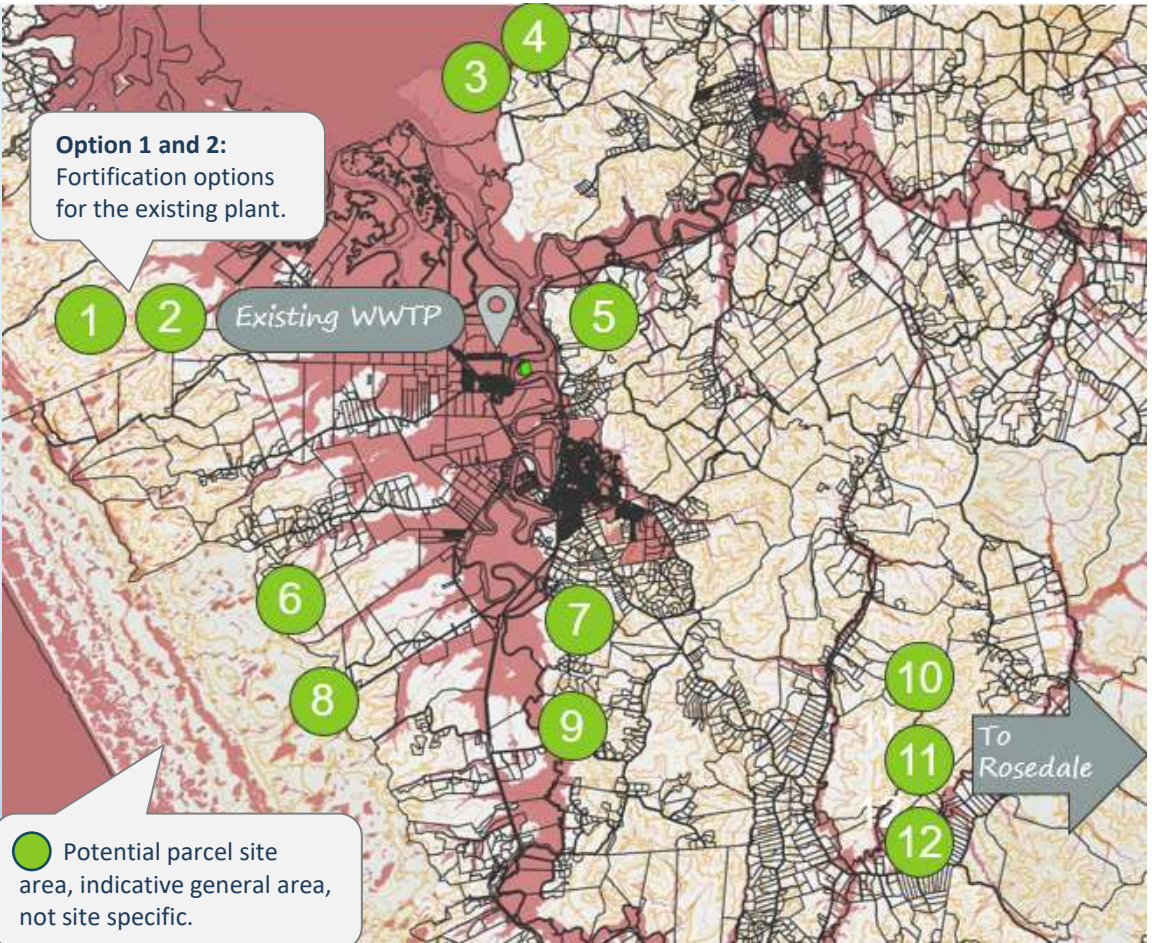
Optioneering Process : Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) 12 options





We start with a long list of possible locations or solutions and have identified **12 options: Fortify (2), Relocate (7), Connect to Metro (3)** that are assessed against a set of **criteria** and the subfactors:

- Mana whenua values
- Effects on the natural environment
- Social and community impacts
- Constructability (how easy or hard it is to build)
- Operability (how well it works long term)
- RMA and consenting requirements

We score each option against the criterion in a consistent way. The combined scores help us identify the strongest options which form the short list.

We bring that shortlist back to the community so you can tell us: **What have we missed?**

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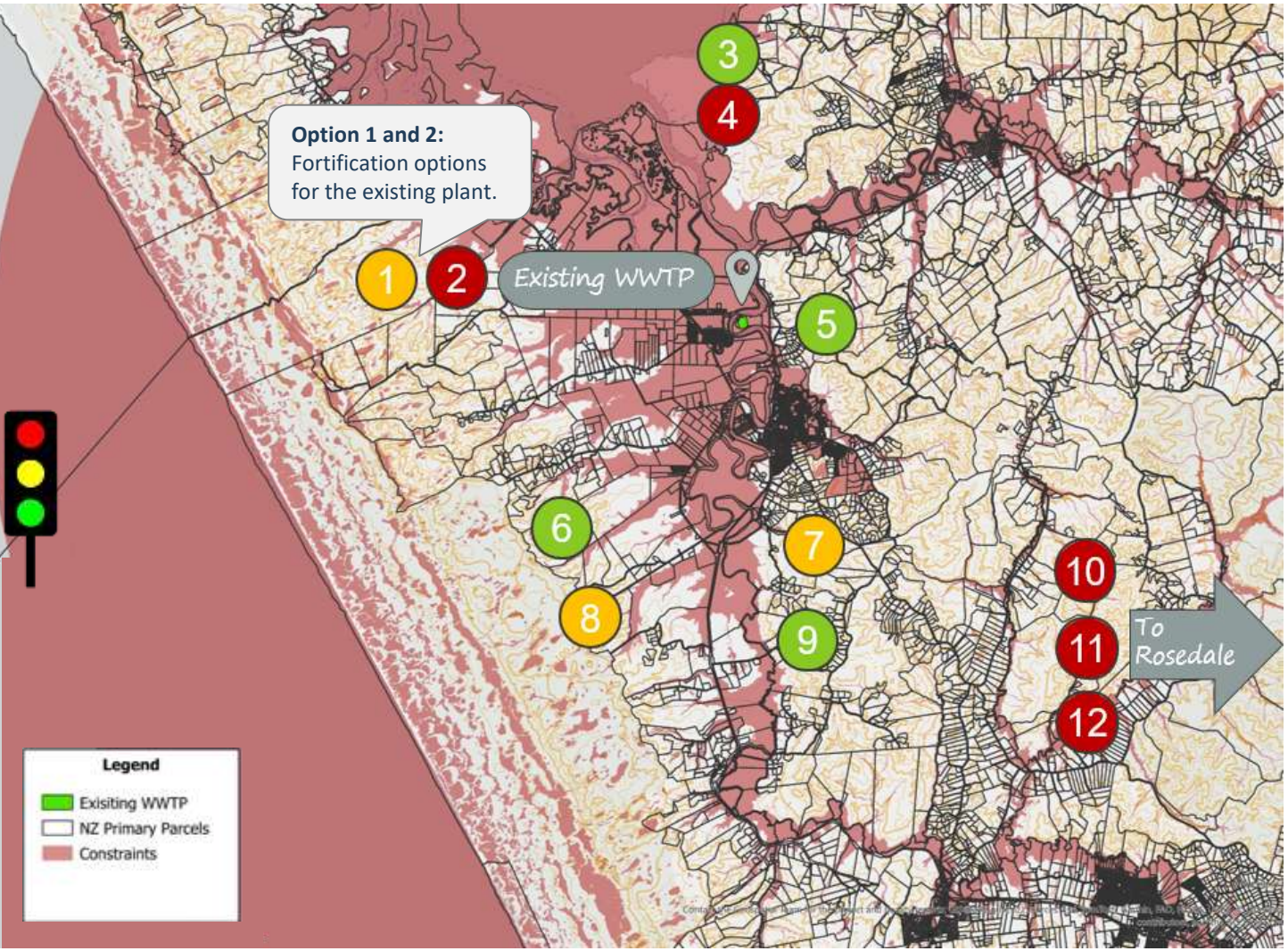
Optioneering: 5 Options (1 Fortify and 4 New Site parcels)



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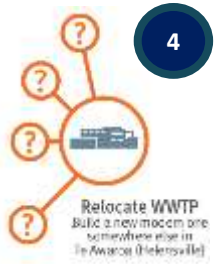
Fortify and upgrade existing WWTP

Option 1: Interim solution: Continued operation at the existing site will continue until this becomes unsustainable. Fortification of the existing site in the **long-term is not feasible**.



4

Relocation to New site

Option 3,5,6,9: Four shortlisted sites
To be evaluated further with input from the community and technical specialists

(All landowners have been notified, and discussions with them are ongoing to support the evaluation process.)

0

Connect to metropolitan

Engineering investigation has found connection to the **metropolitan network is not feasible.**

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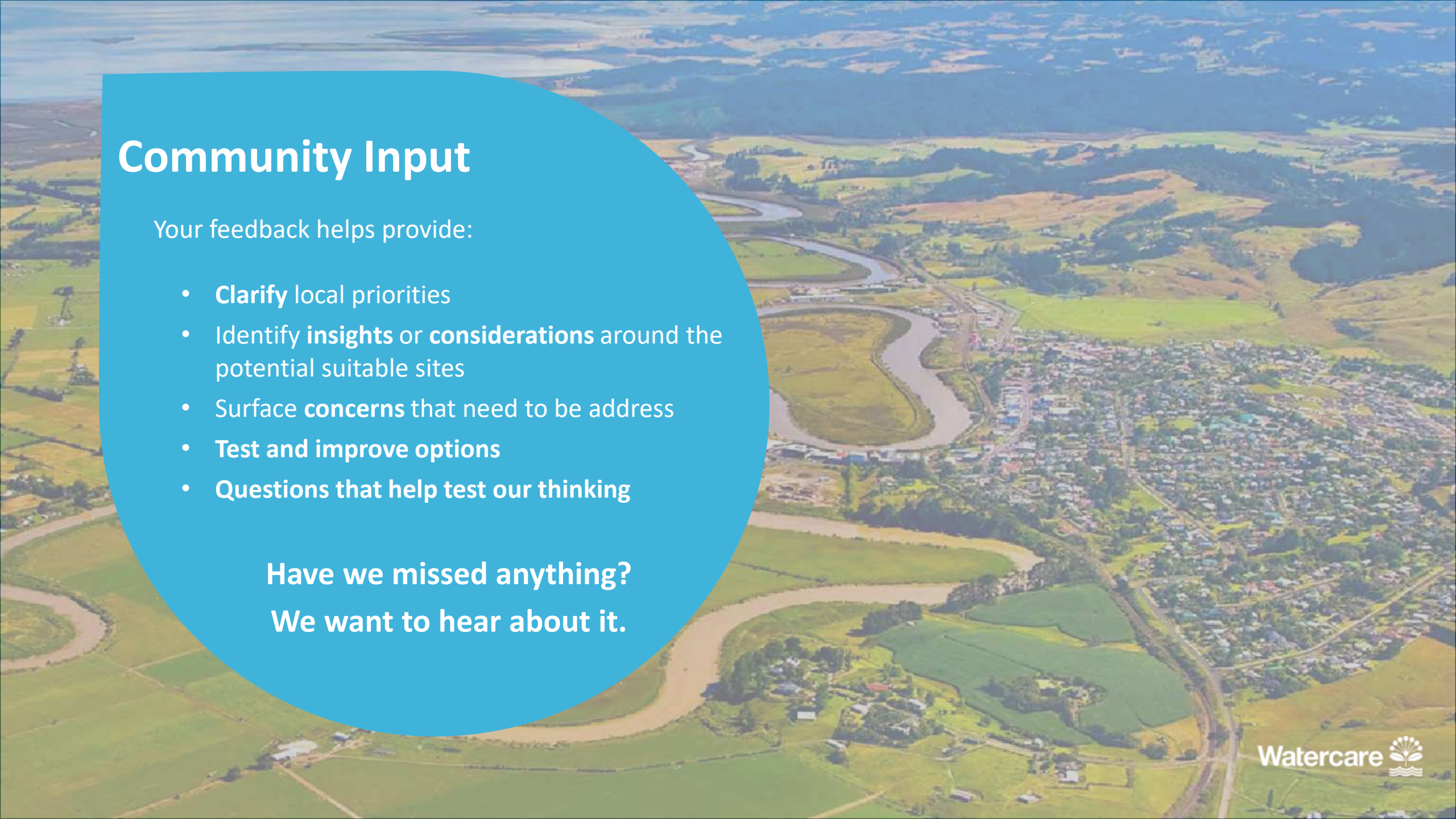
Helensville-Parakai Wastewater Project – Next Steps

At this stage, **five potential options** have been identified but no decisions have been made. Further evaluation is underway to ensure any future decision is well considered, fair and informed.

Next steps include:

- Ongoing engagement with **Mana Whenua**
- Gathering feedback from the **community**
- Notifying and consulting with **potentially affected landowners**
- Undertaking **technical studies** to assess feasibility, environmental risks, and resilience.
- Completing **sensitivity studies** to confirm no critical factors have been overlooked (did we miss anything)
- **Maintaining transparency** through a project on our website for continued community feedback

These steps will support a thorough and inclusive evaluation before any final decisions are made. Once a preferred site is identified, the project will move into the Land Acquisition and Designation phase, providing a foundation for detailed design and delivery.



Community Input

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Helensville and Parakai Wastewater Servicing Project

We're planning how wastewater will be managed for Helensville and Parakai into the future

Project Page

Project Webpage: www.watercare.co.nz/helensville

Contact us

Project Email Address: helensville@water.co.nz

Sign up for project updates

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Optioneering Process: Relocation from 77 to 7 Land parcels

71

Optioneering process

7

Land suitable for assessment

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