



More than 320,000 tonnes of wastewater treatment plant solids are produced every year in New Zealand, and there's more accumulated in ponds that need desludging. All territorial authorities face the same problem of what to do with these solids.

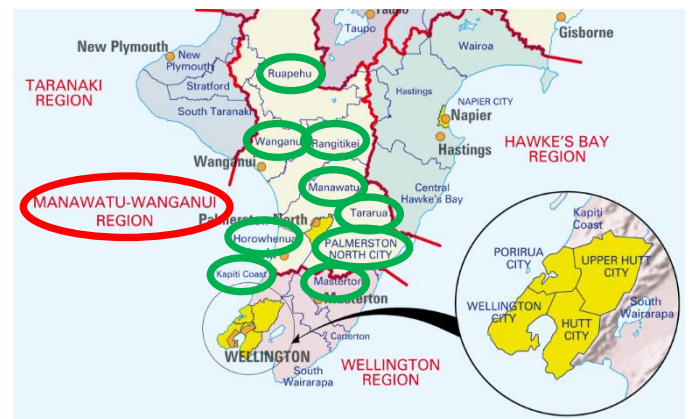
Collective Biosolids Strategy - Lower North Island

Low Environmental Impact (LEI), The Centre for Integrated Biowaste Research (led by ESR), and local government are working together to develop a collective biosolids management strategy in the lower North Island. The strategy developed will identify and test options for discharge and beneficial use of biosolids.

Management of wastewater treatment plant sludges and biosolids can be problematic and expensive. Often the solution chosen is one of convenience rather than what is best for the community and environment. Cost limitations, regulatory uncertainty and limited knowledge also avoid big picture sustainable strategies being developed.

A collective approach allows predominately small rural councils to access expertise and be involved in studies that individually, would not be affordable to undertake.

The project is at an early stage and there is still the opportunity for other councils in the region to join this initiative.








Partner Councils highlighted by circles

Key benefits



Project timeline

Tasks	2017	2018	2019
Undertake a 'gap analysis' to determine the scale of the wastewater treatment plant solids issue in the region (volumes and sludge characteristics).			
Determine the opportunities to work together and streamline processes such as: de-sludging, de-watering, transportation, processing, regulatory approvals, consultation, contingency/back up plans, and beneficial re-use options.			
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Framework to identify how Tangata Whenua and the community at large can be incorporated into developing long term regional wide solutions for managing biosolids.			
Establishment of field trials to determine feasibility of some of the biosolids management options.			
Implement the strategy through assessing the feasibility of several scenarios and the ultimate establishment of both processing and operational site(s) that are economically viable and sustainable for each council involved.			

For further information about this project contact:



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Project Manager

Hamish has specialised waste management skills and considerable experience in managing and undertaking natural resource and infrastructure investigations, strategy and concept development, consenting, nutrient management and system implementation.

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Dr Jacqui Horswell – ESR
Project Coordinator

Jacqui a senior research scientist at ESR and leads the CIBR. She brings an in-depth understanding of emerging issues that face the wastewater industry and can ensure that waste management strategies are pro-active and future proofed.

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