

# Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant

## Community Hui

5.30pm to 7.30pm, Monday 25 November 2024 at Pelorus Trust House

### Summary of discussion

A well-attended community meeting on the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant on Monday 25 November heard from the Mayor of Hutt City Council who outlined that the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant is a top priority for Hutt City Council and that the level of odour is completely unacceptable. This has been made clear to Wellington Water and through them Veolia.

Both HCC and UHCC have committed to \$230M over ten years of investment in the plant. With this funding and workplans the odour levels will be mitigated although not completely eliminated due to the nature of the plant's operation

Wellington Water Chief Executive Pat Dougherty and senior leaders of Wellington Water, along with plant operators Veolia apologised for the unacceptable odour from the plant. The most recent increase in odour was caused by two small fires and equipment failure in the sludge dryer in September.

Veolia said this was a challenging and an unacceptable situation. They acknowledged and recognised their accountability to deliver the right outcomes in the community. They also said the community could expect better and was determined to deliver better. They noted this won't be easy as there are similar ageing infrastructure challenges across New Zealand every day.

The meeting also heard about Wellington Water and Veolia's plans to replace the sludge dryer and make other improvements (further details on the [website here](#))

Pat Dougherty said the sludge dryer is due to be replaced in three to four years. He said that even when the old equipment has been replaced, there may be some odour. He said Wellington Water is doing everything it can to get the plant running properly, reducing the likelihood of odour reaching

people's homes, but it is not possible to guarantee the odour will stop indefinitely.

There was discussion about a number of issues including the odour neutraliser spray in use, funding, planning for the future and the impact on health and wellbeing, property values and businesses.

Wellington Water agreed that, in response to the community's wishes, it would trial turning off the odour neutralisers in use at the plant. More details will be provided once plans are confirmed.

Wellington Water agreed to investigate improving communications drawing on the experience in relation to the Bromley Wastewater Treatment Plant in Christchurch.

### **Actions from the meeting**

Odour monitoring at the plant – looks at ways to communicate regularly on status on the WWL website. Consider network connected hydrogen sulphide and other monitoring such as wind direction.

Communications – more regular updates including looking at ways to reach people (letterbox drop). Consider interactive map with condition and work plan for each pond (traffic light system)

Trial not using odour blasters with advance notice to the community on days this would be happening. This information would be published on the WWL website.

Community concern about having to continually raise the odour issue by lodging complaints will be better managed through more regular communications.

# Community Meeting Seaview WWTP

25 November 2024



# Karakia

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**Whakataka te hau ki te uru  
Whakataka te hau ki te  
tonga  
Kia mākinakina ki uta  
Kia mātaratara ki tai  
E hī ake ana te atakura  
He tio, he huka, he hau hū  
Tīhei mauri ora!**

*Cease the winds from the west  
Cease the winds from the south  
Let the breeze blow over the land  
Let the breeze blow over the ocean  
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a  
sharpened air.  
A touch of frost, a promise of a  
glorious day.*

# Agenda

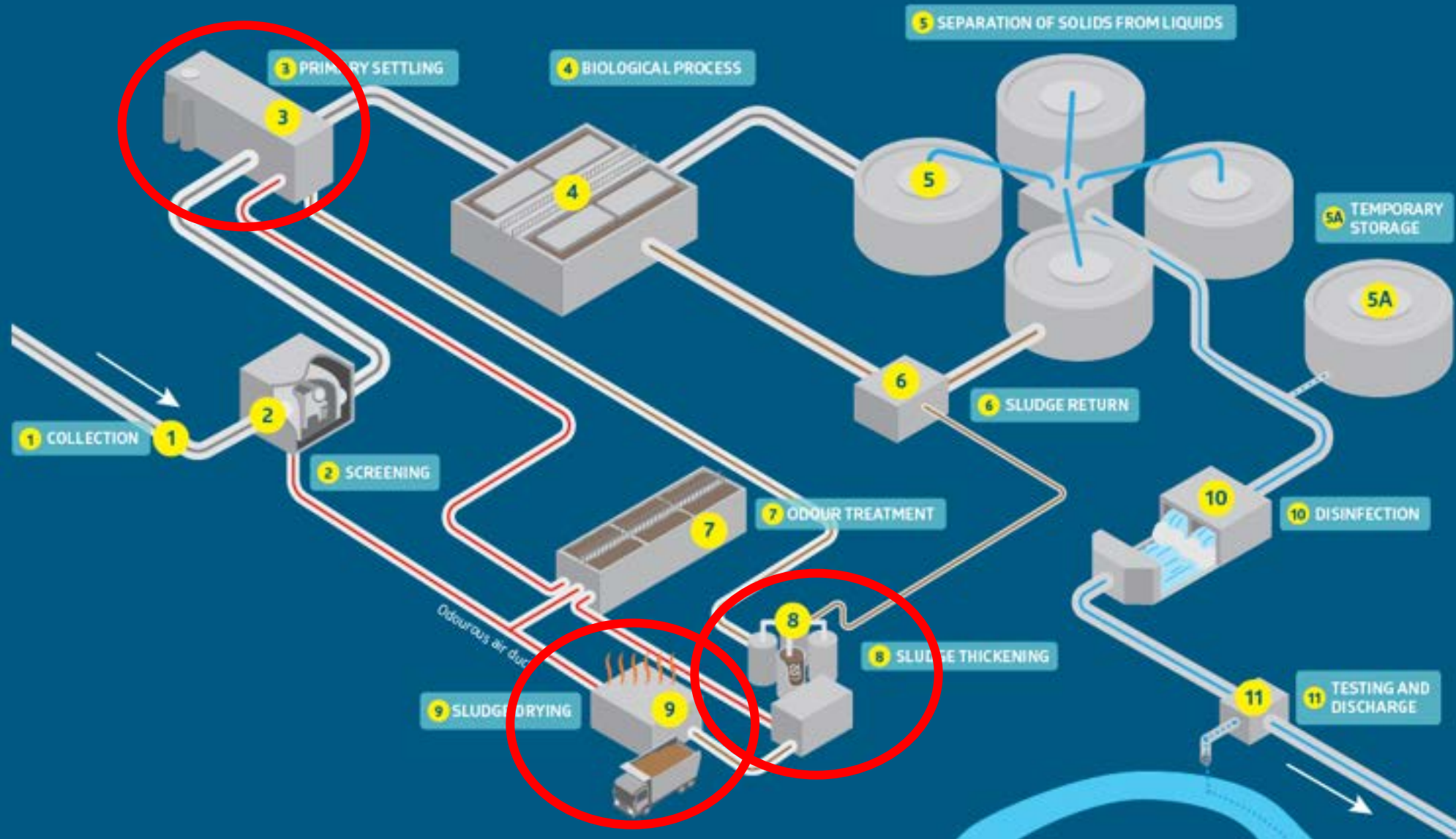
Time	Item	Who
5.30pm	Opening Karakia	Kannihi Butler-Hare (Chief Māori Officer at HCC)
5.35pm	Welcome- introduction	Facilitator Andrew Freeman
	Health and Safety briefing / Agenda	Bruce Hodgins (Strategic Advisor Hutt City Council)
5.40pm	Opening remarks	Mayor Campbell Barry
5.45pm	Wellington Water	Pat Dougherty (Chief Executive Wellington Water)
5.50pm	Review of recent plant incidents and overview on future plant upgrades	Jeremy McKibbin (GM Network Management Wellington Water)
6.00pm	Independent review of plant compliance and incident reports	Emma Brand (Country Director, Veolia)  David Neru

Time	Item	Who
6.05pm	Q&A session	Andrew Freeman (facilitator)
	Open floor to community questions	Mayor Campbell Barry  Jeremy McKibbin  Steve Hutchison (Chief Advisor Wastewater)  Bruce Hodgins (HCC Strategic Advisor)  Emma Brand (Veolia)
6.50pm	Wrap up /next steps and outcomes from meeting	Andrew Freeman
6.55pm	Closing Karakia	Kaanihi Butler-Hare



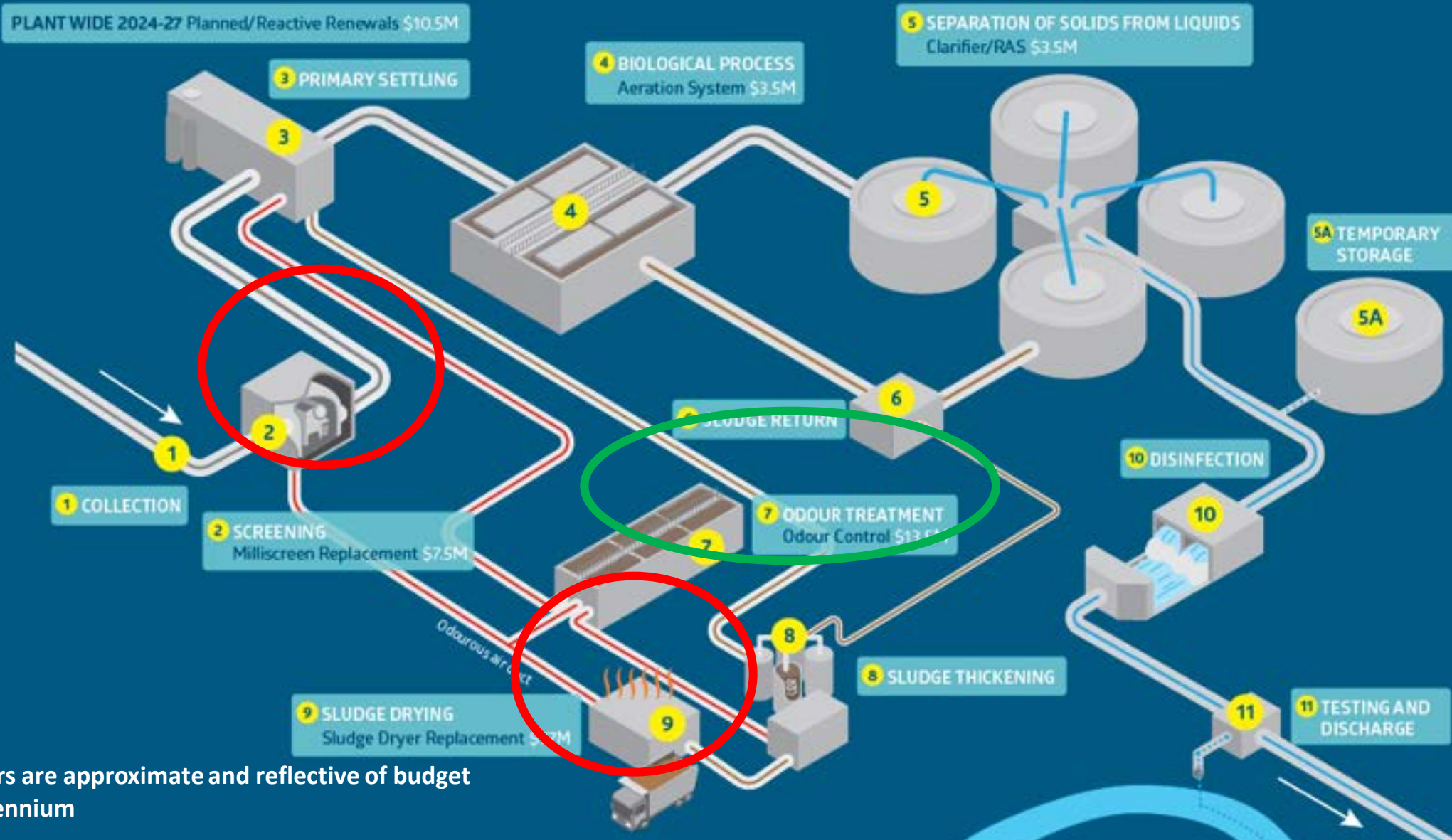
# Seaview Wastewater Treatment Process

## Recent Issues



# Seaview Wastewater Treatment Process

Odour and process risk mitigation projects 2024-27



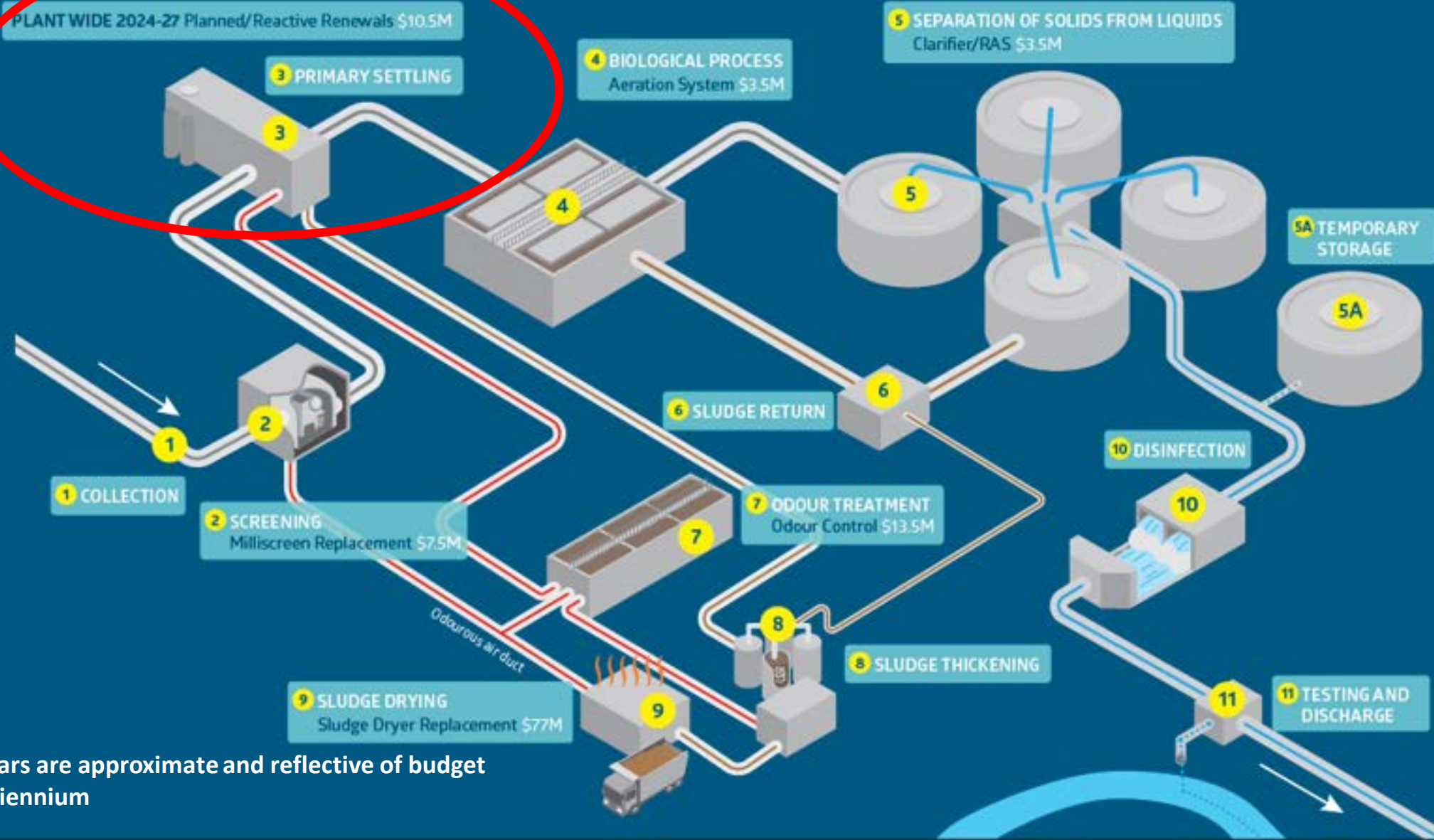
\* Dollars are approximate and reflective of budget  
this triennium



# Seaview Wastewater Treatment Process

Odour and process risk mitigation projects 2024-27

PLANT WIDE 2024-27 Planned/Reactive Renewals \$10.5M

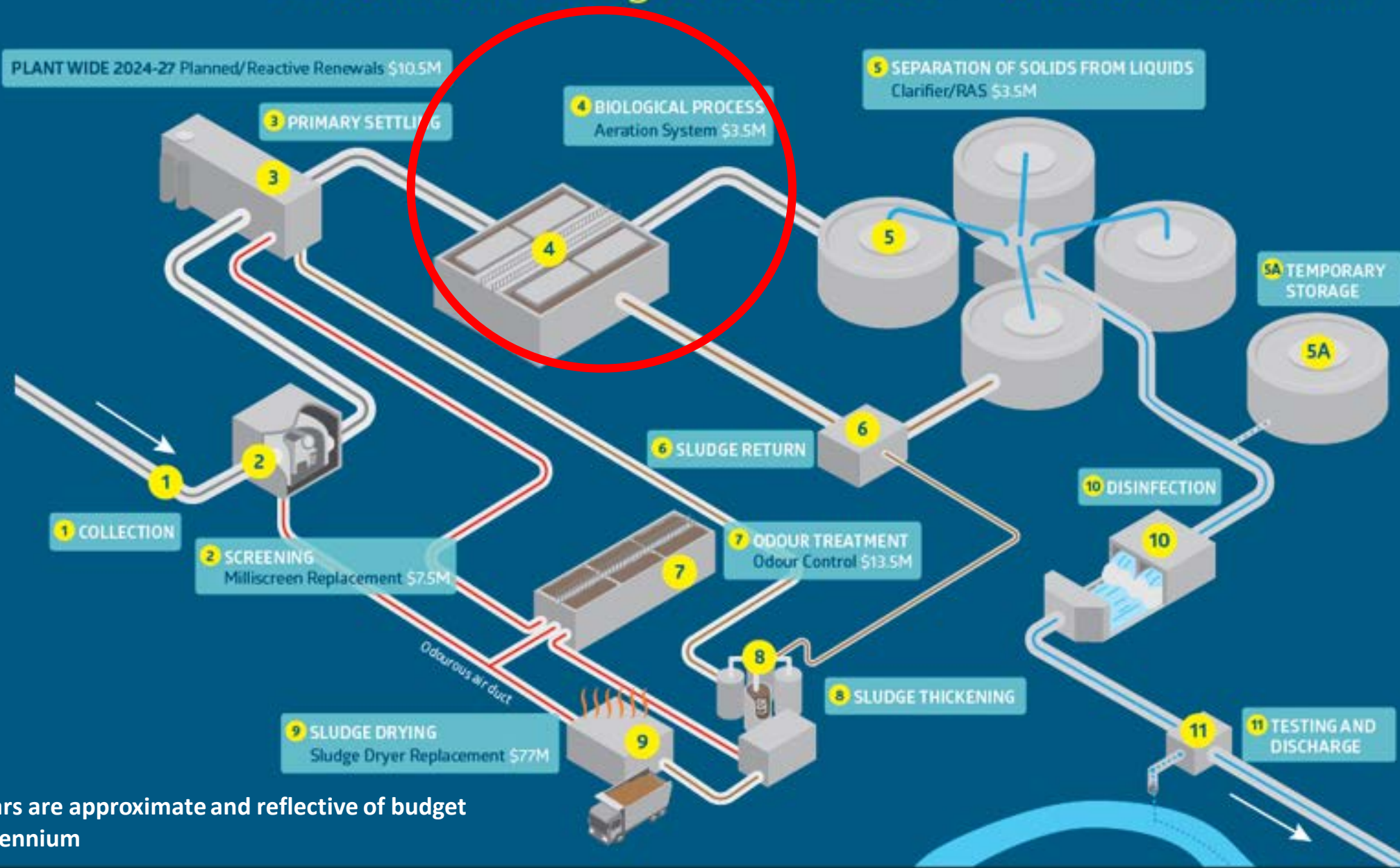


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# Seaview Wastewater Treatment Process

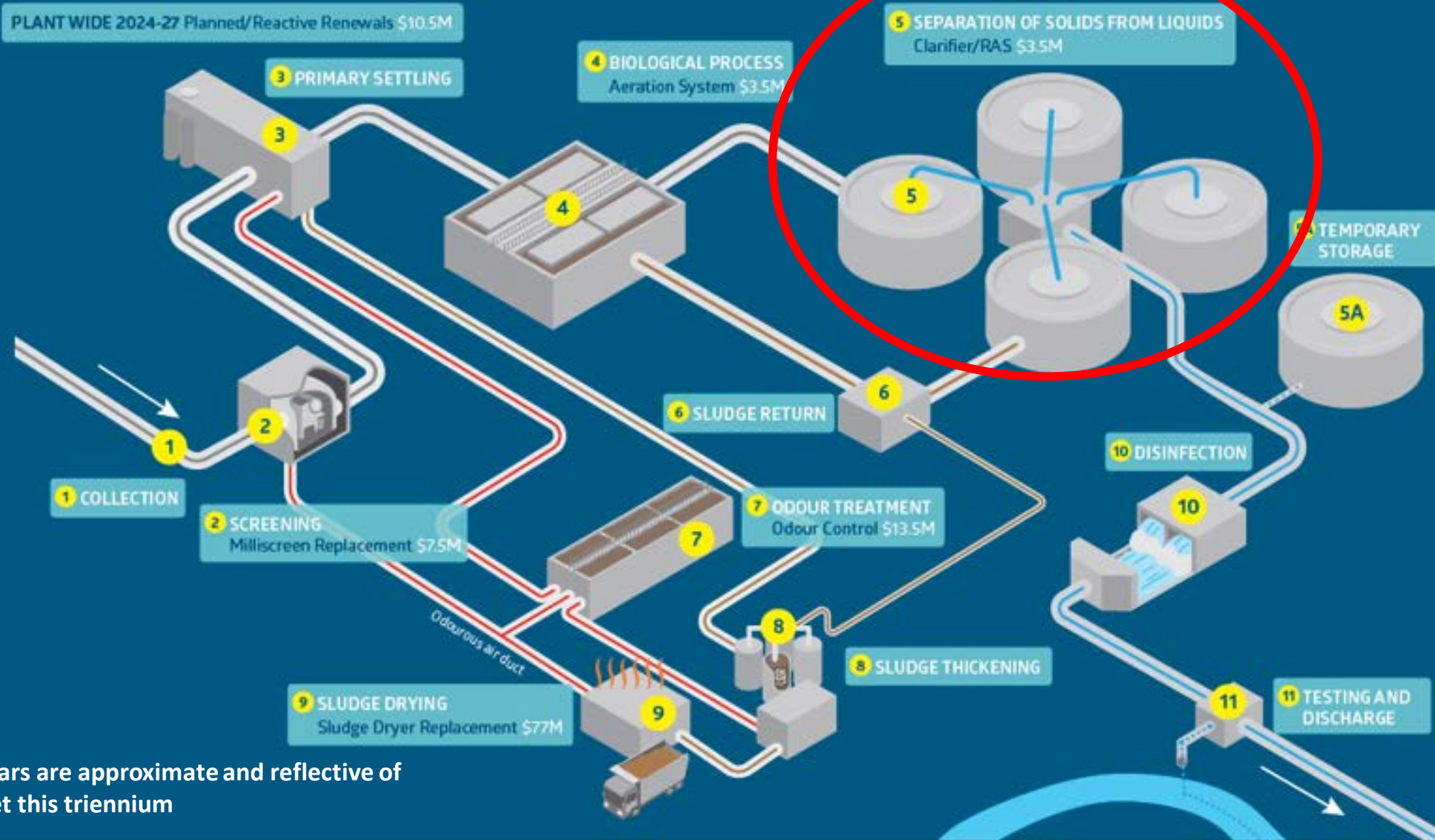
Odour and process risk mitigation projects 2024-27



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# Seaview Wastewater Treatment Process

Odour and process risk mitigation projects 2024-27

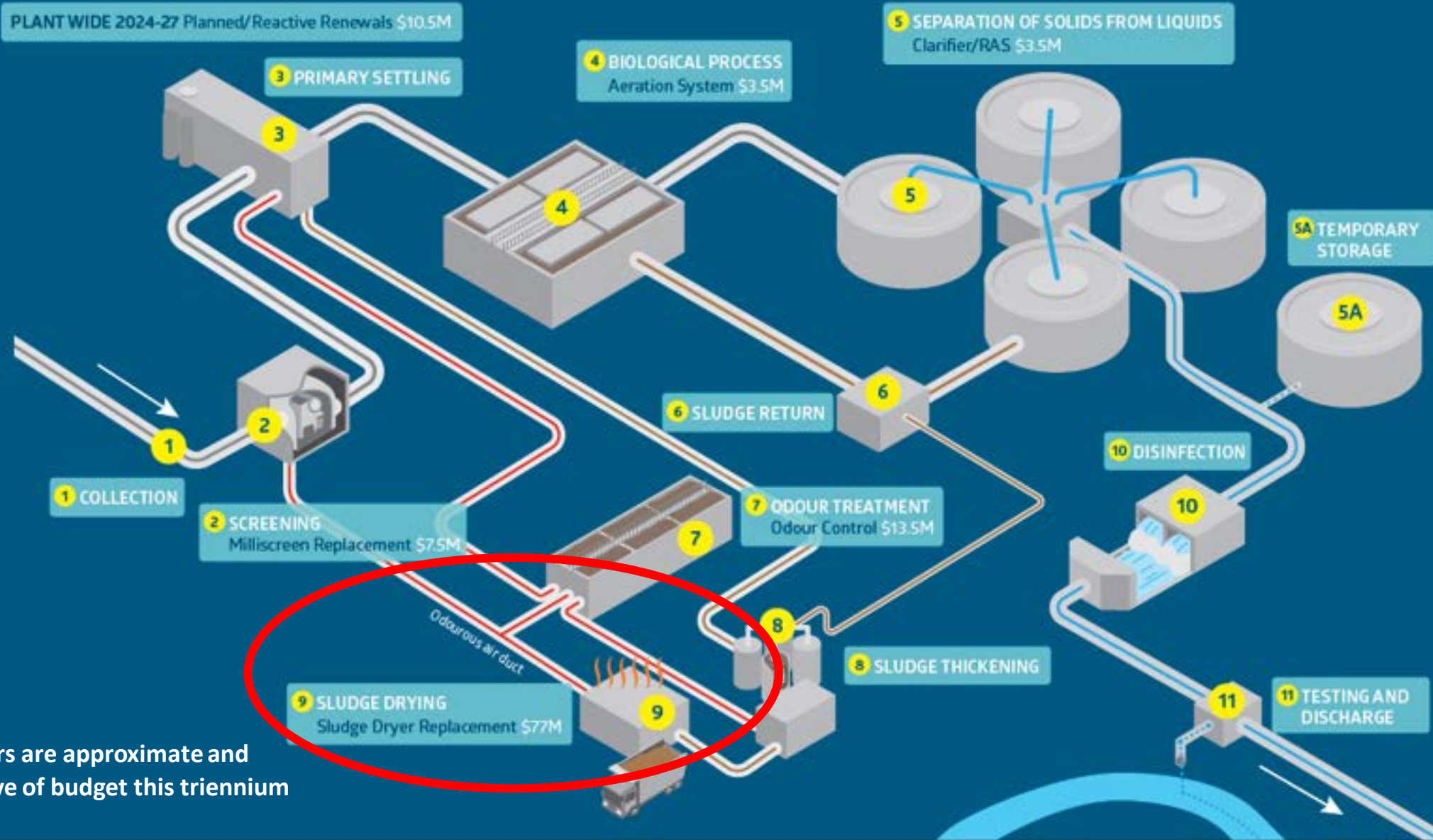


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# Seaview Wastewater Treatment Process

Odour and process risk mitigation projects 2024-27



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Feedback and questions

# Where to go for more information

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Project page: <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/projects/seaviewwwtp>

Plant updates: <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/projects/seaviewwwtp?tab=4>

Dedicated Seaview page: <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/resources/topic/wastewater/wastewater-treatment-plants/seaview-wastewater-treatment-plant>

Odour Deodoriser Air Quality Assessment report: <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/assets/The-Network/Wastewater/Wastewater-Treatment-Plants/Seaview/LR001-WWL-Seaview-Odour-Cannon-Air-Quality-Assessment.pdf>

Independent Review reports: <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/resources/topic/wastewater/wastewater-treatment-plants>

Newsletters: <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/projects/seaviewwwtp?tab=6>

Join the mailing list to be kept up to date: [customernotifications@wellingtonwater.co.nz](mailto:customernotifications@wellingtonwater.co.nz)

## Karakia whakawātea

**Waerea i runga, waerea i raro  
Waerea kia pure, waerea kia para  
Tiraki ana te kapua mōkinokino  
Manaha ana te whenua taurikura  
Tārake a Nuku, tīhore a Rangi  
Kia mahea te hua mākihikihi  
Tūturu whakamaua kia tina  
Tina! Haumi ē, hui ē, tāiki ē!**

Clear it above, clear it below  
Clear so it is purified, and it is free  
The gloomy clouds lift, and the bountiful  
land is clear  
The land is cleared, and the skies have  
peeled open  
Let the way forward be free  
Clear the path for us to walk upon  
Bind it and make it so!  
Join, group, and affirm



# Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant

## Community Meeting, 25 November 2024

### Talking points – Jeremy McKibbin, Wellington Water GM Network Management Group

#### **Biofilter**

Problems with odour at the Seaview plant escalated when biofilter works started in October last year.

Odour was significantly worse than anticipated due to issues with isolating the filter banks.

When we undertook the work to replace the biofilter media last summer, we used the opportunity to inspect the condition of the air distributions system underneath. This identified renewal of the air distributions system was required.

We have completed renewals of the biofilter media and the air distribution system underneath as well as installing a new valve system to isolate the filter banks.

This new valving system will reduce future odour issues when carrying out the biofilter media renewals in the future.

#### **Dryer**

More recently in September, there was a smouldering fire incident which caused the dryer to be offline for 9 days.

This incident was caused by maintenance activity.

#### **Notes:**

- *These are talking points and may not have been used verbatim at the meeting.*
- *Costs in these notes are approximate and reflective of budget this triennium.*

A short period after this, there was a further breakdown of the dryer through aging equipment that had been identified for renewal but unfortunately this renewal had not taken place due to competing maintenance priorities.

These two failures combined resulted in an unprecedented build-up of sludge throughout the treatment process. This buildup of sludge upset the biology of the plant causing increased offensive odour.

### **Primary settling tank**

These failures also coincided with renewal work underway on the primary settling tanks.

All this combined to cause higher than normal levels of offensive odours that the community is suffering from.

To reduce this buildup as fast as possible we continued to transport dewatered sludge, in addition to dried sludge, to the landfill. This also contributed to odour issues during this time but was necessary to improve the health of the biological process.

### **Sludge thickener**

We added a chemical polymer binding agent which accelerates the rate at which we can remove the sludge. This was a necessary step in speeding up processing to reduce the backlog of sludge in the system.

After a period, we had to stop this polymer addition as it had impact on other parts of the plant.

We then removed the residual polymer from the system. During this period, we had to shut down the dryer and transport dewatered but not dried sludge to the landfill which has caused more odour.

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Through these incidents we have identified several improvements that means, should we have critical failures in the dryer going forward, we will be able to remove enough sludge from the process to keep the biology of the plant healthy. This will avoid the longer periods of odour from an unhealthy process that you are enduring now.

### **Dryer and milliscreen**

There is work underway over the next few years that reduces the risks to the process which can cause odour and improvements in the treatment of odour. A number of areas of the plant we are concerned about and want to renew as quickly as possible but unfortunately, we are dealing with a live plant and a living biological process. Equipment like the primary settling tanks and some of the aeration equipment we are concerned about and are looking into how we can speed up their renewals.

We have \$13.5 M for improvements in the odour treatment for the covered areas in the milliscreen building and dryer building.

Unfortunately, this does not address the odour produced if there is a failure in the process. We do have a significant programme of work and funding to ensure the plant becomes more reliable but carrying out this work will take time.

### **Plant wide planned and unplanned renewals**

We have \$10.5 M for plant wide planned and unplanned renewals including the at-risk primary settling tanks.

### **Improvements and renewals of aeration**

We have \$3.5M for renewals and improvements of the aeration systems.

### **Clarifier renewals**

We have another \$3.5M for electro-mechanical clarifier renewals.

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## **Dryer replacement**

The dryer replacement will include its own odour treatment, the full project is budgeted for \$92M and we have \$77M for this triennium.

The replacement dryer is a major project. We will be doing everything we can to deliver it as fast as possible. With an investment of this magnitude, it is important that we get it right.

There is a number of interdependencies outside of our direct control. As an example, the energy source for the current dryer is currently gas, it will be electricity for the new plant.

The energy capacity required for a dryer is very high and will likely require additional upgrades to the power network if electricity is to be used. We will need to work with the power supply company to see what is required.

This equipment is likely to have manufacturing lead times and we need to be 100% confident on what we want before ordering it, so the interdependencies need to be clarified before we take next steps.

We are factoring in sea level rise and other factors into the design to ensure we have climate change resilience as well, there are a number of things like this that we need to make sure we have right with a project of this scale.

The recent failures of the dryer highlight the need for increased vigilance with this equipment, we are involving technical specialists including the dryer manufacturer to improve reliability of the dryer.

We are also watching the process at Seaview closely. We have an incident management team liaising closely with Veolia.

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