

What positive effects are associated with a proposal of this sort?

Under the Resource Management Act (RMA), Council's are not only required to look at any actual and potential effect on the environment (and whether they can be avoided, remedied and/or mitigated or are no more than minor), but to consider any measure proposed or agreed to by the applicant for the purpose of ensuring positive effects on the environment to offset or compensate for any adverse effects on the environment that will or may result from allowing the activity.

Some of the positive measures proposed are listed as follows:

Environmental	Protection, enhancement, and restoration of an existing gully (which is identified as Significant Natural Area in the Waikato Proposed District Plan) with an area of 3.9 hectares. This will be fenced off, undergo a six-year weed and pest management programme, be replanted with natives. The area will be surveyed and covenanted, protected in perpetuity – forever. This gully is at the headwaters of an unnamed stream which eventually flows into Lake Waahi.
Ecological	<p>Protection of the whole ecosystem above allows for native species to regenerate. Planting the stream banks provides better and more enhanced habitat for banded Kōkopu (white bait) and Tuna (eels) by giving shade and keeping the water temperature lower.</p> <p>Planting the wetlands and removing weeds enhances this habitat potential to support indigenous plant, fish and waterfowl species, while improving wetland functions include the filtration of ground and surface water flowing through the catchment and attenuation of flows/floodwaters during heavy rain events.</p>
Bat (Pekapeka) protection	While the loss of some trees that may provide bat habitat is unavoidable, Gleeson have proposed the protection of 1.5 hectares of existing pine trees closest to the Waikato River to be covenanted, with bat boxes being installed, and pest removal measures undertaken. They are working with Department of Conservation to ensure any trees to be felled are clear of bat presence, and ensuring permanent habitat is protected going forward, allowing the bats safe haven.
Visual	The Visual and Landscape Assessment has described the existing surroundings as 'highly modified' which enables the proposed fill sites to positively contribute to the overall long-term visual environment. The assessment states that <i>"long term there will be positive effects on amenity and amenity values through the improvements to the site, proposed works and reinstatement of productive pasture within the site which will blend and integrate well with the surrounding land with positive visual attributes."</i>
Restoration	<p>At the completion of filling each gully (2-3 years), the fill is capped with 2m of clay then top soiled and grassed. The final contours are shaped to be attractive and fit the rolling nature of the surrounding rural landscape.</p> <p>The sediment ponds will be either filled, or can be converted into engineered wetlands, in consultation with Council and Iwi (and fenced).</p>

	Gleeson are required to provide a Rehabilitation Management Plan, should consent be granted, within 6 months. This plan shows how the final landform will be achieved, and the steps to achieving it.
Iwi	Gleeson are collaborating with Waahi Whaanui Trust to develop a 'Maatauranga Maaori Management Plan', which will be one of the first of its kind. This takes the knowledge local iwi have of the land, air and water and combines this knowledge with traditional science and sustainable practices.
Community	The Managed Fill Activity, if approved, will be financially bonded by the Council. This means that Council has the means to ensure all works – including ecological mitigation, water quality, rehabilitation, and earthworks etc are all completed. This gives certainty to the community, iwi, and Council that the land and water will not be left exposed or abused.
	Gleeson have already sponsored several community events and equipment and are happy to be approached for any reasonable request to 'get involved' and give back to the local community.
	Gleeson run a 'Safety Around Trucks' programme in schools, educating students and providing life skills around larger vehicles and the road network.
Local & wider economy	There will be further jobs created by the fill operation.
	With the proposed population growth of Waikato District and major upcoming projects, the fill operation enables fill to be disposed of responsibly and sustainably – and assists in the avoidance of 'illegal dumping'
	Trucks are coming to access metal/rock from the quarry, so it is a sensible 'economy of scale' for trucks to arrive with a load of fill to dispose of, before leaving with a load of metal. This is a sustainable use of the existing road network and trucks.



MAP SHOWING AREA TO BE RESTORED & AREAS OF ADDITIONAL PLANTING – HILLSIDE HEIGHTS ROAD IS JUST RIGHT OF THE AREA

PHOTOS OF AREAS WITHIN GULLY PROPOSED TO BE RESTORED AND PROTECTED



Degraded wetland in gully to be restored & enhanced



Woolly nightshade and gorse infestation – to undergo weed management



Indigenous treeland including rimu, pukatea, kānuka and kahikatea



Patches of raupō in the northern most point of the wetland with swamp millet, kikuyu



Pond within restoration gully to be enhanced



Kahikatea-pukatea forest with sub-canopy and understorey comprising nīkau, whekī, māpou, pukatea, and kiekie.