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Mr Rob Whight
Transmission Gully Project
Transit New Zealand
PO Box 27477
Marion Square
Wellington 6141

PO Box 11646
Wellington 6142
142 Wakefield St
New Zealand
T 04 384 5708
F 04 802 0300
W www.gw.govt.nz

Greater Wellington is the promotional
name of the Wellington Regional Council

Dear Mr Whight

Greater Wellington Regional Council submission to alternative designation proposal for Transmission Gully

The following information highlights the issues Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) has, as landowner, with regard to the proposed designation for Transmission Gully.

Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

The proposed shift from the forest area at the base of the Western Hill to the flatter area located in pasture land within Battle Hill Farm Forest Park (Battle Hill) will have a substantial impact on the viability of the farming operation in this area.

GWRC requests that compensation for the relinquishing of this land includes the provision of equally productive farming land adjacent to the farm for incorporation into it, allowing continued sheep and cattle grazing, as well as hay feed to levels currently enjoyed.

It is also important that farming, forestry and recreation access between the eastern and western sections of the park is maintained. On the alignment plans sent to the Council an underpass is included at Battle Hill, but on the brochure distributed to the public an overbridge is allowed for. Either would be acceptable, but GWRC would like further consultation about the location of the crossing.

We also bring to your attention that a minor wetland lies in the area now proposed for the new designation.

Belmont Regional Park

While there has been a great deal of publicity around the impacts of this proposal on Battle Hill, there has been very little information provided to the public regarding the impacts it may have on Belmont Regional Park. A number of concerns held by GWRC have been outlined below.

The current proposal shows the new alignment moving towards the head of the Cannons Creek catchment, running along the current main farming road between the Takapu Road end of Belmont Regional Park and Waitangirua. Mitigation will be required to offset these impacts.

It appears that this new alignment will cut off farming and recreation access, as well as having more impact on upper Cannons Creek vegetation than initially proposed. This vegetation is part of a covenanted area of indigenous bush that is cared for by a group of volunteers who work on the park.

While the Crown owns the Takapu Block, it is managed by GWRC as part of Belmont Regional Park and this should be acknowledged.

The deletion of Warspite Avenue interchange from the proposal will have positive impacts on the farming operations at Belmont Regional Park and GWRC supports this amendment.

In closing, Council will be continuing their discussions with Transit New Zealand regarding the outcome of this proposal and the mitigation for impacts on Council land.

Yours sincerely

Hon Fran Wilde
Chair
Greater Wellington Regional Council