

POLICY ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF VARIATIONS TO THE REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

Purpose

This policy sets out how to determine the significance of variations to Greater Wellington's Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP). This policy is set in accordance with section 106(2) of the Land Transport Management Act 2003 (the Act).

Application

The RLTP can be varied at any time. However, consultation will be required in accordance with section 18 of the Act if the variation is significant.

There are two steps when considering variations:

1. Does the change require variation to the RLTP?
2. Is the variation to the RLTP significant?

Changes that do not require a RLTP variation are:

- Requests to vary NLTP allocation amounts
- Requests for emergency reinstatement
- Changes to activities requested by approved organisations¹
- Variations to timing, cashflow or total cost, for the following:
 - Improvement projects
 - Demand management
 - Community-focused activities
- Delegated transfers of funds between activities within groups
- Supplementary allocations
- End-of year carry over of allocations.

General determination of significance

The significance of variations to the RLTP will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

When determining the significance of a variation to the RLTP, consideration must be given to the extent to which the variation:

¹ Section 18E of the Land Transport Management Act 2003 allows approved organisations to notify the New Zealand Transport Agency (Agency) directly of changes to local road maintenance, local road renewals and local road minor capital works, and existing public transport services so that the Agency can consider whether to vary the NLTP. These terms are defined in section 8.3 of the Agency's Planning, Programming and Funding Manual (Manual).

Minor changes to existing public transport services, as defined in section 16(6) of the Land Transport Management Act 2003 and section 8.7 of the Manual, also do not require variation.

- materially changes the balance of strategic investment in a programme or project
- impacts on the contribution towards NZTS objectives and/or GPS targets
- affects residents (variations with a moderate impact on a large number of residents, or variations with a major impact on a small number of residents will have greater significance than those of a minor impact)
- affects the integrity of the RLTP, including its overall affordability.

Consideration should also be given to any likely impacts of time delays or cost on public safety, economic, social, cultural, environmental wellbeing as a consequence of running a consultative process.

Generally not significant

Subject to the general determination of significance, the following variations to the RLTP will generally be considered not significant:

- activities that are in the urgent interests of public safety
- a fractional scope change costing less than 10% of the estimated cost for an agreed package or strategy, or less than \$20 million, irrespective of the source of funding
- replacement of a project within a group of generic projects by another project of the same package
- a change to the duration and/or order of priority of the activity or activities that the Regional Transport Committee decides to include in the programme, which does not substantially alter the balance of the magnitude and timing of the activities included in the programme
- the addition of an activity or activities that have previously been consulted on in accordance with sections 18 and 18A of the Act, and which comply with the provisions for funding approval in accordance with section 20 of the Act.