

Report 14.272
Date 15 May 2014
File TP/03/29/01

Committee Council
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Greater Wellington Regional Council submission on the NZTA'S Petone to Grenada Link Road Proposal

1. Purpose

To seek the Council's approval of a submission on the NZ Transport Agency's Petone to Grenada Link Road consultation (Consultation brochure provided as **Attachment 1** to this report).

2. Background

The need for a new east-west link between SH2 (Lower Hutt/Petone) and SH1 (North Wellington/Porirua) has been identified through a number of regional transport planning processes including the Regional Land Transport Strategy and the Hutt Corridor Plan. The Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15 identifies the Petone to Grenada Link Road in the list of 'other significant activities expected to commence within the next 10 years'.

Over the past 12 months NZTA has been through a process to look more closely at the benefits of the Link Road and to investigate potential routes in more detail. NZTA is now seeking feedback on the proposals before making any decisions about the options that have been developed.

The Petone to Grenada consultation page on NZTA's website provides further information and reports at <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/petone-grenada-link-road/index.html?r=1>

Feedback will be compiled and made available later this year. The feedback will be used by NZTA to refine the proposals, including determining a final route and considering the timing of construction.

Public submissions closed on the 17 April 2014 and around 1400 submissions were received.

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) considered a draft submission at a Council meeting on the 9 April 2014 (Report 14.190). At that meeting the Council received and noted the report and referred the draft submission to the

Strategy and Policy Committee for consideration and finalisation. Due to timing and meeting schedule considerations, the draft submission was referred to this meeting of the full Council. This report therefore updates and supersedes Report 14.190.

A workshop session was held on 14 May 2014 to enable presentation of further information and to allow further discussion on the content of the GWRC submission.

The draft submission has been updated as a result of these further discussions and is provided as **Attachment 2** to this report.

3. The Link Road proposal

Full details of the proposal and route options are set out in the consultation brochure (refer **Attachment 1**) and on the NZTA website (link provided above). In summary, the proposed Link Road will:

- Generally be a four lane road – two lanes in each direction with a median barrier – but six lanes in sections where the road is steep.
- Include a new interchange at Petone
- Be relatively steep in parts (similar to the gradient of Ngauranga Gorge)
- Involve significant amount of excavation (around eight million cubic metres of soil and rock).

The Link Road itself includes two distinct sections:

- Petone to the Crest (Section 1)
- Crest to Tawa or Transmission Gully (Section 2).

The map on page 3 of the consultation brochure sets out the four route alignment options for Section 1 (options 1-4) and four route alignment options for Section 2 (options A-D).

4. Comment

The recommended submission is included as **Attachment 2** to this report.

The updated draft submission includes support for the process agreed at the Regional Transport Committee meeting on 13 May 2014 for a collaborative regional partnership between NZTA and the region's councils as the project progresses, through the establishment of the Chief Executive steering group. This group will provide direction for the project managers and resolve conflicts, and will ensure community and other issues are addressed through the project design.

5. Communication

The approved submission will be sent to the NZTA for its consideration when further developing the proposal.

6. The decision-making process and significance

Officers recognise that the matters referenced in this report may have a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties.

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

6.1 Significance of the decision

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington to consider the significance of the decision. The term 'significance' has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance as the decision relates to feedback from the Council to another organisation (NZ Transport Agency) who will make the final decisions in relation to the subject proposal.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

7. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Approves the submission set out in Attachment 2 to this report.***

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Attachment 1: NZTA's Petone to Grenada Link Road document – Issue 01 February 2014

Attachment 2: Draft Submission on the NZTA Petone to Grenada Link Road