

Ōtaki to North of Levin Highway Project

Statutory Approvals Summary

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) is giving notices of requirement for designations of land to the Horowhenua District Council (HDC) and the Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) and is applying for the necessary resource consents from Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council (Horizons) and Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) to authorise the construction, operation, maintenance and improvement of the **Ōtaki to North of Levin Highway Project** (Ō2NL Project).

Project description

The Ō2NL Project involves the construction, operation, use, maintenance and improvement of approximately 24 kilometres of new state highway and a shared use path (SUP) between Taylors Road and the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway (PP2Ō), (to the north of Ōtaki) and State Highway 1 (SH1) north of Levin. The Ō2NL Project will bring significant transport safety, resilience and journey time benefits for all road users.

The location of the Ō2NL Project is shown on the **attached Project Overview Plan**.

The new highway will be median separated, with two lanes in each direction over the majority of the route (similar to the recently opened Peka to Peka to Ōtaki expressway). Roundabouts and new interchanges will connect the Ō2NL Project to the existing transport network and at either end of the route.

The three-metre-wide SUP will be used for walking and cycling along the entire length of the new highway and will link into the existing share path facilities provided as part of the PP2Ō expressway and provides for recreational and commuter use.

The Ō2NL Project includes a number of new underpasses, overpasses and new road reconnections to provide local road connectivity along the proposed state highway, including in particular:

- bridges over the North Island Main Trunk (NIMT) railway line (near Heatherlea East Road), the Ohau River, the Kuku, Waikawa, Manakau and Waiauti Streams; and
- the relocation and improvement of the intersection of Tararua Road with SH1 and the associated rail level crossing, including the introduction of traffic signals.

The Ō2NL Project provides for stormwater treatment including through constructed wetlands, as well as approximately 250 hectares of native vegetation planting for landscape, natural character, visual and ecological restoration purposes.

As part of the construction of the Ō2NL Project, five material supply sites are proposed to supply bulk fill/earth material needed to construct the highway. These sites are located north and south of the Waikawa Stream, north of the Ohau River and south of Heatherlea East Road.

Statutory approvals sought

Waka Kotahi is giving two notices of requirement to designate land for the Ō2NL Project; one within Horowhenua District and one within Kāpiti Coast District. The notices of requirement include land required to be used on a temporary basis to construct the Ō2NL Project (including site offices and storage of materials). Waka Kotahi seeks a lapse period of 10 years from the date the designations are included in the respective district plans (Horowhenua District Plan and Kāpiti Coast District Plan). This means that construction works needs to start within 10 years.

Waka Kotahi also seeks the resource consents necessary for the construction and operation of the Ō2NL Project from Horizons and GWRC under the One Plan and Greater Wellington Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region respectively. This includes the following resource consents, which are for the construction phase of the Ō2NL Project, and for which a 10 year duration period is sought:

Manawatū-Whanganui Region:

- land use consents for large scale earthworks, land disturbance and vegetation clearance, and the placement of a bridge over a river or a stream;
- discharge permits for discharges of water or contaminants to water or land within an 'at-risk', 'rare' or 'threatened' habitat, the discharge or placement of cleanfill, the discharge of contaminants to air, and the discharge of sediment to water; and
- water permits for the diversion of water associated with earthworks activities, land disturbance, vegetation clearance and placement of a bridge over a river or a stream, the diversion of water within an 'at-risk', 'rare' or 'threatened' habitat, taking of surface water for construction related activities, and dewatering outside of an 'at-risk', 'rare' or 'threatened' habitat.

Wellington Region:

- land use consents for earthworks, vegetation clearance and land disturbance (including within or near natural wetlands for the purpose of constructing specified infrastructure), and the placement of culverts;
- discharge permits for the discharge of sediment, discharge to air from Ō2NL Project works during the construction phase, discharges associated with the placement of culverts in, or on, the bed of a river, and discharges to land and water associated with the deposition of cleanfill, and
- water permits for the taking of water in Kāpiti Whaitua, and the taking of water associated with works within, and reclamation of, a wetland.

The following resource consents are sought for the operational phase of the Ō2NL Project, for which a 35 year duration period is sought:

Manawatū-Whanganui Region:

- land use consent for placement, use, alteration, extension or reconstruction of culverts in, on, over or under the bed of rivers;
- discharge permits for the discharge of water or contaminants to water or land within an 'at-risk', 'rare' or 'threatened' habitat, the discharge of treated stormwater to a reach of a surface water body or its bed within a Schedule B Value of Sites of Significance-Aquatic; and the discharge of water within or near natural wetlands for the purposes of constructing specified infrastructure; and
- water permits for the diversion of water within an 'at-risk', 'rare' or 'threatened' habitat, dewatering (managing water from groundwater and springs) and diversion of water outside of an 'at-risk', 'rare' or 'threatened' habitat, the taking, use, damming, diversion, or discharge of water within or near natural wetlands for the purposes of constructing the Ō2NL Project (which is specified infrastructure).

Wellington Region:

- land use consent for the placement, use, alteration, extension, or reconstruction of a culvert in, on, over, or under the bed of a river;
- discharge permits for the discharge of treated stormwater from the Ō2NL Project, discharges associated with works within a wetland, and dewatering; and
- water permits for the diversion of surface water associated with works within a wetland, the diversion of streams, the taking of water for dewatering, and the taking, use, damming, diversion, or discharge of water within or near natural wetlands for the purposes of constructing specified infrastructure.

The following resource consents are sought for the operational phase of the Ō2NL Project, for which an unlimited duration period is sought:

Manawatū-Whanganui Region:

- land use consent for the reclamation of stream beds;

Wellington Region:

- land use consents for the works within, and reclamation of, a wetland, the reclamation of streams associated with the piping of the streams, and the reclamation of stream beds

To avoid doubt, Waka Kotahi is also applying for any other resource consents required for the construction and operation of the Ō2NL Project under the relevant regional plans.

Addressing effects on the environment

The Ō2NL Project results in a range of actual or potential effects on the environment, both positive and adverse (negative). These are addressed in detail in the documentation that accompanies the notices of requirement and applications for resource consents.

Waka Kotahi has sought to avoid and otherwise minimise adverse effects through the development of the Ō2NL Project. Remaining potential and actual adverse effects are proposed to be addressed (avoided, remedied, mitigated, offset or compensated for) through a suite of designation and resource consent conditions that provide a framework for the on-going management of potential adverse effects. The conditions require preparation of management plans that includes an overarching construction environmental management plan, as well as management plans relating to tangata whenua, ecology, erosion and sediment control, construction air quality, construction noise and vibration, construction traffic management, and community and stakeholder communications.

The full application material contains a number of technical reports that set out the effects of the proposal and how they will be managed.

Other authorisations under the Resource Management Act 1991 necessary for the Ō2NL Project

The design details of Ō2NL Project including the bridges, SUP, gateways, stormwater wetlands and landscaping will be subject to later RMA processes, in particular the outline plan process required pursuant to section 176A of the RMA.

Approval from Kiwi Rail Holdings Limited is required under s176 and s177 of the RMA for the works across the NIMT rail corridor in two locations; SH1/Tararua Road intersection and crossing the NIMT and the proposed overbridge crossing of NIMT near Sorensens Road.

Project Overview Plan

