

**MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE**

<b>Subject</b>	O Mahurangi - Penlink Sod Turning Ceremony
<b>Date</b>	17 November 2022
<b>Briefing number</b>	BRI-2646

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 <sup>st</sup> contact
Steve Mutton	Director Regional Relationships (Northland/Auckland)		s 9(2)(a)	✓

**Action taken by Office of the Minister**

- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen by Minister
- ☐ Agreed
- ☐ Feedback provided
- ☐ Forwarded to
- ☐ Needs change [please specify]
- ☐ Withdrawn
- ☐ Overtaken by events

17 November 2022

**Hon Michael Wood – Minister of Transport**

## O MAHURANGI PENLINK SOD TURNING EVENT

### Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information about the O Mahurangi Penlink project, prior to the sod turning event on 10 December 2022 from 10am to 11am.

### Project funding and costs

2. The total cost for the O Mahurangi Penlink project is \$830 million and is funded by the New Zealand Upgrade (NZUP) programme.

### Project features

3. Key features of O Mahurangi Penlink include:
  - A new 7km transport connection between Whangaparāoa Peninsula and State Highway (SH) 1 at Redvale.
  - A separated shared path between Whangaparāoa Road and East Coast Road.
  - South-facing ramps to SH1, with an overpass over SH1 (located between the Bawden Road bridge and BP station).
  - Local road connections at Whangaparāoa Road, Stillwater township, Ara Wēiti Road and East Coast Road – and the ability to link with planned future residential developments between East Coast Road and Stillwater.
  - A new bridge crossing the Wēiti River.



## Project benefits

### 4. Key benefits of the O Mahurangi Penlink project include:

- Reduced traffic volumes through the Silverdale Interchange which will free up transport capacity for housing developments in the wider Wainui and Silverdale areas.
- Provide a direct connection and support economic activity along the Whangaparaoa Peninsula.
- Improve connections to support economic activity in Dairy Flat and Silverdale.
- Provide new and safer facilities for people on foot and on bikes.
- Provide greater network resilience.

## Project context

5. O Mahurangi Penlink is a key part of the NZUP programme in Tāmaki Makaurau.
6. The need for a new connection to the Whangaparāoa Peninsula has a long history. A bridge across the Wēiti River to connect Stillwater to the Peninsula was first identified in the 1980s.
7. Rodney District Council (the Council) progressed options to address both transport and land-use needs for the area, including protecting the corridor.
8. The designation and consents for a two-lane road were approved in 2001. This designation allows for the construction and operation of O Mahurangi Penlink and allowed for the requiring authority to purchase land for the project. While the transport need for the project was identified, the Council was unable to secure funding to progress the project.
9. Further work was taken upon the establishment of Auckland Council in 2010.
10. In June 2020, the government announced the NZUP programme, which included O Mahurangi Penlink, which would now be delivered by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency. In June 2021, the Government confirmed funding for the full delivery of the proposed two-lane toll road and shared path.
11. In June 2022, HEB Construction, Fulton Hogan, Aurecon and Tonkin + Taylor gathered with Waka Kotahi to formally sign an agreement that saw the group become an alliance to construct the O Mahurangi Penlink project.
12. At the signing ceremony, mana whenua gifted the name O Mahurangi to the project. This is in recognition of the ancestress Mahurangi, a tohunga (priestess) who lived in Hawaiiki and whose powers are said to have enabled the construction of the great voyaging waka, Tainui.

## Key messages

### 13. Key messages of the O Mahurangi Penlink project include:

- O Mahurangi Penlink will form a vital transport link in north Auckland as more people live, work, and grow up in Silverdale, Whangaparāoa and the Hibiscus Coast.

- Along with the planned extension of the Northern Busway, the new two-lane road will support connected transport networks in north Auckland as people will enjoy better and reliable transport choices and improved travel times between Whangaparāoa and wider Auckland.
- Waka Kotahi assesses all new state highway links for tolling and NZUP programme roads such as O Mahurangi Penlink are no different. The Land Transport Management Act 2003 allows a toll to be established for one or more transport activities including planning, design, construction, or maintenance and operation of a new road.
- Government funding for O Mahurangi Penlink has been provided for the planning and construction of the project only. However, the ongoing costs of maintaining and operating the road to ensure it is safe and resilient need to be found from other funding sources.
- Findings from the assessment show tolling revenue for O Mahurangi Penlink could be used to pay for the ongoing maintenance and operations costs rather than seeking funding from the National Land Transport Fund, which is under increasing pressure.
- The project is currently in the planning stage with construction due to start in January 2023. This construction timeline reflects the time needed to properly consider planning options and updated assessments to provide a more accurate design.
- The cost for O Mahurangi Penlink is \$830 million, including contingencies and is funded by the NZUP programme.

#### Other matters

14. Following the tolling consultation there has been requests from the public for an update on the decision to toll the road. Should a decision not be announced prior to the sod turning, there is likely to be increased interest from media and the community.

#### You have received the following briefings on this subject:

1. BRI-2516, s 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
2. MIN-2944, s 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
3. BRI-2557, s 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
4. MIN 3946, s 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
5. MIN-3998, s 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]

#### Ministerial sod turning event

15. The event will be located at the O Mahurangi site compound: 1697 Ara Wēiti Road, Stillwater.
16. Speeches and a sod turning ceremony will take place.

**Key attendees to acknowledge**

17. The key attendees invited for the sod turning ceremony include the following:

- Hon Kelvin Davis, MP for Te Tai Tokerau
- Mark Mitchell, MP for Whangaparāoa
- Mana whenua, including our iwi partners Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngaati Whanaunga and Te Kawerau a Maki
- Wayne Brown, Auckland Mayor and Desley Simpson, Deputy Mayor
- Auckland elected members including Cr Wayne Walker and Cr John Watson for the Albany Ward and members of the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board.

**Media**

18. Waka Kotahi expects significant local and some national media interest
19. There have been some negative comments by a local councillor on the refined intersection design in the local paper.

**It is recommended that you:**

1. **Note** the contents of this briefing.



.....  
**Steve Mutton**

Director Regional Relationships (Northland/Auckland)

.....  
**Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport**

Date: 2022