

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	State Highway 3 Safety Improvements - Pukenui Road Roundabout and Bulls to Ohakea Shared Use Path Sod Turning
Date	9 May 2023
Briefing number	BRI-2765

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 st contact
Linda Stewart	Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)		Section 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- ☐ Withdrawn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

9 May 2023

Hon Michael Wood – Minister of Transport

State Highway 3 Safety Improvements - Pukenui Road Roundabout and Bulls to Ohakea Shared Use Path Sod Turning

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information about the Pukenui Road Roundabout and Bulls to Ohakea Shared Path project, prior to the sod turning event on Monday, 15 May 2023, from 10am to 11am.

Project funding and costs

2. The Pukenui Road roundabout is funded by the Road to Zero Speed and Infrastructure Programme (SIP). New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) will contribute 50 percent of the cost, up to a maximum of \$5 million, payable upon practical completion.
3. The cost for the Pukenui Road roundabout is \$10.6 million.
4. The Bulls to Ohakea shared user path is funded by the Low-Cost Low Risk Walking & Cycling fund.
5. The cost for the Bulls to Ohakea shared user path is \$1 million.

Project features

6. Construction of a double-laned, three-armed roundabout with priority traffic flow for each direction at the turn-off to RNZAF Base Ohakea.
7. Construction of a new shared use path on the western side of SH1/SH3, from the new roundabout to the Bulls River Bridge.

Project benefits

8. A roundabout at this location will make the intersection safer and will also reduce delays to vehicles coming out of Pukenui Road. This will become more important as traffic on this road increases with the construction of a new Commercial vehicle safety centre and other developments at Ohakea.
9. A shared user path in this location will make walking and cycling safer.

Project context

10. The Pukenui Road Roundabout and Bulls to Ohakea Shared Path project is a key part of a package of safety improvements between Bulls and Sanson.

11. These safety improvements deliver to road to zero, our road safety strategy. Road to Zero sets us on a path to achieve Vision Zero, an Aotearoa where no one is killed or seriously injured on our roads. As a step towards Vision Zero, the Road to Zero strategy sets an initial target of reducing deaths and serious injuries by 40 percent by 2030.
12. As well as the roundabout and shared user path, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is planning to construct a new commercial vehicle safety centre (CVSC) (previously known as 'weigh station') to be positioned just inside the existing fence line on the Northern Eastern side heading into Pukenui Road (as indicated in the image above). Tenders for construction of the CVSC closed in April 2023 and tender evaluation is underway. Start date is to be confirmed; construction is expected to take 9-12 months.
13. We are also investigating the installation of median barrier on the corridor and in the wider region. As part of Road to Zero, we are aiming to have 170- 220km of median barrier operational or in construction on state highways across the country by the end of June 2024.
14. In 2021, we initiated a speed review of the corridor engaged with the community on this at the same time as we engaged on the idea of the roundabout. The speed review has not progressed further; at present, following recent government announcements, Waka Kotahi is creating a framework to help identify and interpret the top 1 percent corridors that pose the highest risk to safety.

Key messages

15. Key messages of the Pukenui Road Roundabout and Bulls to Ohakea Shared Path project include:
 - Waka Kotahi is set to begin construction on a new roundabout at the intersection of SH3 and Pukenui Road, the turnoff to RNZAF Base Ohakea. As part of the project, a shared use path for pedestrians and cyclists will also be built between Ohakea and Bulls.
 - The new roundabout and shared use path are being delivered as part of a package of safety improvements for SH1 and SH3 between Bulls and Sanson, aimed at reducing crashes and preventing deaths and serious injuries on the road.
 - The new roundabout and the shared use path between Ohakea and Bulls, together with the relocation of the nearby commercial vehicle weigh station, will make this busy stretch of road safer for everyone who uses it.
 - The roundabout will be a double-laned, three-armed roundabout with priority traffic flow for each direction. By reducing speeds through the intersection, the new roundabout will reduce crashes while at the same time reducing delays for traffic coming out of Pukenui Road.
 - The shared user path will run along the western side of SH1/SH3, from the new roundabout to the Bulls River Bridge, and will make walking and cycling safer.
 - The new roundabout is a joint project with the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and Base Ohakea.
 - Fulton Hogan will construct the roundabout and shared path. Tender evaluation for the construction of the new commercial vehicle safety centre is still underway.

- Construction of the roundabout and shared path project will begin this month and is expected to take 15 months to complete.
- Traffic management plans are being confirmed and will be communicated to stakeholders and community. It is expected that the area will be under temporary traffic management with lower driving speeds for safety during the construction period.
- The state highway safety improvements between Bulls and Sanson deliver to road to zero, our road safety strategy. Road to Zero sets us on a path to achieve Vision Zero, an Aotearoa where no one is killed or seriously injured on our roads. As a step towards Vision Zero, the Road to Zero strategy sets an initial target of reducing deaths and serious injuries by 40 percent by 2030.

Other matters

16. A letter from a member of the public, setting out their concerns about the roundabout project, was received by your office on 8 March 2023.
17. The concerns related to the number of emissions that would be generated by vehicles using the roundabout in the future, as well as mechanical wear and tear on vehicles, fuel consumed, and time wasted.
18. The member of the public questioned why we were not constructing a grade separated interchange, as has been done in another area, and why it is not the Ministry of Defence's responsibility to do this.
19. Waka Kotahi responded to this letter on 20 April 2023, addressing the writer's concerns.
20. The Sanson Community Board has arranged a community meeting on 10 May 2023 at 7pm to hear about the project. Waka Kotahi representatives are planning to attend to provide information and answer questions.
21. We are arranging an info session in Bulls to provide members of the community information and answer questions.
22. A full communications and engagement plan for the construction phase will be developed.

Ministerial sod turning

23. The event will be located at Hard standing area inside and to the left of the Memorial Gate at RNZAF Base Ohakea, 1 Pukenui Road.
24. A blessing, speeches and sod turning will take place.

Key attendees to acknowledge

25. The key attendees invited for the event include the following:
 - Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa representative (TBC)
 - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Raukawa representative (TBC)
 - Rob Partridge, Regional Manager Infrastructure Delivery, Transport Services, Waka Kotahi

- Linda Stewart, Director Regional Relationships, Waka Kotahi
- Rob Shearer, Base Commander Group Captain, NZDF
- Baz Bennett, Command Warrant Officer, Warrant Officer, NZDF

Media

26. We expect some local media interest.
27. Recently, media covered the news that the contract had been awarded and that construction was to start soon. This coverage was positive.
- [NZ Herald - Roundabout to be built at Ōhakea base turnoff on State Highway 3](#)
 - [Stuff - Construction of new Ōhakea roundabout to start next month](#)

It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** the contents of this briefing.
2. **Forward** this briefing to Tangi Utikere, MP for Palmerston North.



Linda Stewart

Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)

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Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport

Date: 2023