

MINO-813 Takatimu North Link project

5 July 2023

Waka Kotahi has been asked to provide an update on the Takatimu North Link project.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

This project is part of NZUP and while Stage One is currently in construction, changes were made for Stage Two.

The Government first announced the New Zealand Upgrade programme (NZUP) project on 20 January 2020: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/transport-infrastructure-upgrades-get-nz-moving-and-prepared-future>

In June 2021, the Government decided to rescope some projects. It confirmed construction on Takitimu North Link Stage One and route protection of Takitimu North Link Stage Two, a 7km extension between Te Puna and Ōmokoroa, would be progressed as part of the NZUP. More context here: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/planning-and-investment/docs/nzup/nzup-factsheet-takitimu.pdf>

Stage One: Takitimu North Link

NZUP has provided funding to build Stage One, the new 6.8km four-lane road connecting State Highway 29 (SH29) Takitimu Drive through to SH2 west of Te Puna.

The Western Bay of Plenty community can look forward to significantly improved safety and accessibility, resilience, and more transport choice for moving around the region. It is the Bay of Plenty's biggest roading project to date.

Takitimu North Link will provide an alternative route to SH2, moving trucks away from local roads and supporting urban growth. It is a key part of the region's Connected Centres programme developed by the Urban Form and Transport Initiative.

Stage Two: Te Puna to Ōmokoroa

Waka Kotahi is progressing to protect the route for Stage Two of the Takitimu North Link project between Te Puna and Ōmokoroa. Further work beyond route protection, including construction, will require further funding. The Resource Management Act 1991 applications are scheduled to be lodged with Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council in late 2023. This will give Council, landowners and the community certainty of the route and ensure Waka Kotahi is best placed to move forward when funding for construction becomes available.

During March and April 2023, additional geotechnical testing has been carried out to confirm the suitability of soils in locations where additional bridge structures and stormwater treatment devices will be located. Further ecological, site contamination and engineering investigations are also being carried out, to support the assessment of environmental effects reporting for the Notice of Requirement and resource consents. We met with affected landowners in April 2023 and are undertaking wider public engagement in July 2023, with an opportunity to see the draft alignment and intersection forms.