



# Transport Services Report

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**IN CONFIDENCE**

# Executive Summary

## Mount Messenger Bypass

Waka Kotahi has received the final decision from the Environment Court awarding resource consents and designation for the Mt Messenger Bypass.

We have also received word from the High Court that Poutama - Pascoes have lodged an appeal against the second interim decision. We have previously addressed issues raised by the appellants and satisfied the courts, however we will follow court process and there is potential for the final Environment Court to also be appealed.

Poutama - Pascoes have additionally applied to the Supreme Court seeking leave to appeal the substantive High Court decision and they have until 30 April to prepare a submission to this effect. Waka Kotahi will then have 15 days to respond before the Court considers the matter further. We expect the Supreme Court will not make a decision until the end of July on whether to proceed or not with the appeal.

These matters will delay are impacting on our programme of works. While we await an update, our project team is continuing ecology work in the Mt Messenger area, finalising the bypass design work, procurement, property and construction planning, and compiling requirements for the environmental restoration programme – a significant part of the project. Collaboration with Ngāti Tama continues in preparation for construction.