

# 2021–24 National Land Transport Programme

## Factsheet

### Waikato

- A total of \$1.5 billion is forecast to be invested in Waikato in the 2021–24 National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) period.
- Waikato's significant contribution to the economic wellbeing of New Zealand underpins the importance of the region having a safe, accessible land transport system that is both reliable and resilient to move people and goods along inter-regional routes.
- With Auckland and the Bay of Plenty, Waikato forms the 'golden triangle' – New Zealand's major growth area where 50% of our population lives and a significant proportion of our economic activity takes place.
- The region has important road and rail connections to Tauranga and Auckland, connecting the three largest urban centres in the Upper North Island, the two largest ports (Auckland and Tauranga) and the country's largest international airport in Auckland.
- Reliable access to export markets is critical when 40% of the nation's freight movements go into, out of, or through the Waikato.
- Completion of the SH1 Waikato Expressway during this 2021–24 NLTP period will not only reduce travel times between Auckland and Tirau by 35 minutes, but also help reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries along this corridor which has high traffic volumes.
- Road safety remains a significant issue in the Waikato, with more than 20% of New Zealand's annual deaths and serious injuries occurring in the region. During the 2021–24 NLTP, there will be a focus on speed management and infrastructure improvements to make journeys safer across the region.
- Through the FutureProof partnership, Waka Kotahi is working to develop a spatial plan and an integrated land use and transport programme for the Waikato region. Work continues with partners to implement the Hamilton Mode Shift Plan to grow the city's proportion of travel by public transport and walking and cycling.
- Providing more travel options and responding to climate change through targeted public transport improvements, new passenger rail services and better access to walking and cycling is a focus for this NLTP period.
- The \$1.5 billion forecast investment includes:
  - \$781 million forecast maintenance and operations
  - \$126 million forecast public transport investment
  - \$54 million forecast cycling and walking investment
  - \$224 million forecast Road to Zero investment
  - \$38 million forecast NZ Upgrade Programme.

### Waikato investment highlights for 2021–24

- Completion of the \$4.5 million underpass on SH21 Airport Road in Tamahere later this year, providing a safe crossing for the Cambridge to Hamilton shared walking and cycling path. The underpass is part of the 20km Te Awa path between Cambridge and Hamilton. This is the last link in the continuous 60km cycling and walking route following the Waikato River from Karapiro to Ngāruawāhia.

- Completion of the region's biggest ever roading project – the Waikato Expressway. The \$637 million Hamilton section, the last 21.8km bypass east of Hamilton, is scheduled for completion in mid-2022.
- Throughout Waikato during the next three years, \$298.5 million will be spent on improving safety across 15 high-risk corridors to significantly reduce annual deaths and serious injuries in the region.
- Te Huia, the new Hamilton to Auckland passenger train service, which was launched in April 2021, is now offering two return services, five days a week. \$20 million will be invested in the Te Huia inter-regional rail services between Hamilton and Auckland, with \$2 million to introduce an off-peak service.

## More information

For more information on the 2021–24 NLTP, visit our website: