

WARKWORTH TO WELLSFORD PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

2009

Investigations for a future highway began in 2009 with the opening of the Northern Gateway Toll Road and the government pinpointing Pūhoi to Wellsford as one of seven roads to be prioritised for construction to support and encourage economic growth.

JUNE 2010

The first engagement on the Ara Tūhono Pūhoi to Wellsford project sought feedback from the community on three key principles of the project:

- When completed, the new highway will be separate from the existing State Highway 1
- There will be access points at Warkworth and Wellsford
- The new highway will pass Warkworth to the west and pass Wellsford to the east.

Input was also sought from the local community to identify areas of environmental, cultural and community value, to assist in identifying an Indicative Route for the new highway.

More than 600 feedback forms were received over a seven week period. Summary of initial engagement for the Warkworth to Wellsford section included:

- Widespread support for entirely new highway ('off-line' route)
- General support for western bypass of Warkworth and eastern bypass of Wellsford, though some expected the highway to bypass to the west of Wellsford
- Want bypass close to town for easy access to Wellsford
- Tie-in points suggested both north and south of Te Hana
- Local knowledge of unstable soil type (Onerahi Chaos/Northland Allochthon) near Wellsford making it difficult to build
- Difficult terrain in the Dome Valley for construction and concern new road might defer safety improvements to existing SH1 in this area
- Areas of environmental value in the Dome Valley – Hochstetters frogs and Powelliphanta snails.

NOVEMBER 2010

The objective of the June 2010 engagement was to assist the project team in identifying an indicative route for a new highway between Pūhoi and Wellsford. Initial investigations and consultation highlighted the design complexity of the future route between Warkworth and Wellsford.

Due to the difficult terrain of the Dome Valley and Wellsford section, a decision was made by the NZ Transport Agency to separate the project into two sections – Pūhoi to Warkworth and Warkworth to Wellsford. Route protection for future construction would get underway for Pūhoi to Warkworth, with the northern section to follow at a later date.

The second phase of engagement for Ara Tūhono Pūhoi to Wellsford in November 2010 focused on an indicative route proposed for the Pūhoi to Warkworth section of the project. Read more about the public feedback from this engagement in the April 2012 newsletter available online at www.nzta.gov.nz/puhoi-warkworth.

SEPTEMBER 2016

The Transport Agency board endorses decision to recommence planning for the Warkworth to Wellsford project.



JANUARY - AUGUST 2017

The Transport Agency informed all potentially affected property owners and interested stakeholders of the Indicative Route for the Warkworth to Wellsford section of Ara Tūhono Pūhoi to Wellsford project.

Public feedback was invited on the Indicative Route in March 2017. The Transport Agency received more than 400 pieces of information and held more than 90 landowner meetings. The project webpages received more than 7,500 visits.

The major themes from the 2017 engagement feedback included:

- The project with its objectives has broad support
- Kaipara Flats Road does not have suitable local road access to support on and off ramps in this location
- The design of the Te Hana interchange should make better use of Mangawhai Road to lessen land impacts in this area
- Changes to improve safety of the northern tie-in, particularly regarding Maeneene Bridge and side road access
- Consideration should be given to minimise the impact on people/properties/farms and businesses as much as practicable through design and then mitigation
- Consideration should be given to environmental and cultural considerations, but don't over value these in terms of getting the project done
- The project is needed and should be built as soon as possible.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2018

Project engagement to date and further investigations have refined the Indicative Route presented in February 2017 to what is now called the Indicative Alignment within the proposed designation boundary.

The proposed designation boundary will be the area of land that the Transport Agency is proposing to designate for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project. The Indicative Alignment was presented to directly affected landowners and neighbours in November, then uploaded to the Transport Agency website in December.

FEBRUARY- MARCH 2019

Public information days are being held in Warkworth, Wellsford and Te Hana, with all information available on the Transport Agency website and from community facilities within the project area.