



Ōtaki to north of Levin

MANAGING NOISE



When planning a new highway, we know the potential increase in noise is a concern for communities.

Noise issues can be a consequence of both vehicles using the road, and construction and maintenance activities.

We aim to be a good neighbour and we take our social and environmental responsibility seriously. For all Waka Kotahi projects, acoustic specialists measure and predict noise throughout the project to inform the design team. Our processes are based on the independent standards produced by Standards New Zealand (NZS6806 and NZS6803) and are also informed by lessons learnt on recent projects.

Potential effects of construction and operation of the road are assessed taking into consideration the existing environment and other performance standards, including international literature.

Noise and the design process

Waka Kotahi considers potential noise effects when making key design decisions. These include the elevation of the road, interchange format and type of road surfacing. In addition, consideration of elements such as planted noise bunds, appropriate bridge joint selections and avoiding audible rumble strips in locations near houses.

Our guidelines set out how traffic noise is assessed and, where required, the approach for determining appropriate mitigation.

Mitigation is prioritised where individual houses are exposed to higher noise levels, or in more dense areas where multiple houses will benefit from the mitigation. In a quiet rural environment, we recognise noise effects can continue a considerable distance away from the new highway.

WHY IS NOISE AN ISSUE?

When not adequately addressed, transport noise and vibration can cause a range of impacts on people and communities. These range from adverse health effects and sleep disturbance to annoyance and interference with daytime activities such as work, study and domestic living. In this information sheet, we outline how we work in order to manage these effects.

Timeline of the next steps

TRAFFIC NOISE - ASSESSMENT, APPROVALS, DESIGN AND VERIFICATION

During the selection of the preferred corridor and the draft preferred alignment, noise was one of the factors considered along with other environmental and social impacts, the ability to implement and the fit with the project objectives.

