

# TAURIKO FOR TOMORROW

## Summary of engagement: April – June 2022

**Earlier this year, we asked for people's views on the next phase of the Tauriko for Tomorrow project to shape a safe transport network and a new community in Tauriko West.**

The purpose of this engagement was to build on feedback received over the past five years of consultation and engagement with mana whenua, landowners, stakeholders, key interest groups and the community, and use it to refine the overall transport network design and support the Tauriko Network Connections Business Case.

We also provided an update on the short-term works (the enabling works) to improve safety and enable development at Tauriko West, and the planning for the new community.

### How we engaged

- Approx. 400 people attended the three open days held.
- Information was made available at Tauranga Crossing for 10 days.
- We received 88 pieces of feedback (online, notes, emails).
- 5,823 views of project webpages.
- Three minutes average time spent viewing the webpages.
- 44,500 reach and 202 likes, comments and shares on Waka Kotahi and Tauranga City Council Facebook posts

### Ways to provide feedback

- Verbally at open days
- Written feedback forms
- Online feedback forms
- Comments/notes at open days
- Email
- Phone

### Top five themes raised

- Safety and local road connections
- Short-term improvements
- Long-term improvements
- Traffic effects
- Walking, cycling and public transport

These themes are what people told us matter most to them, at the public open days and via the online survey. This feedback focussed on the transport improvements, with little feedback received on the planning for the new community.

This feedback will help us refine the design of the proposed short-term transport improvements, and shape the long-term transport plans for the current and new community in Tauriko.

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## What we heard

Feedback supported the importance of continuing with a coordinated and integrated approach to planning for growth in Tauriko West and the broader Western Corridor area, and highlighted the urgent need for these improvements to address safety concerns in specific areas and reduce traffic congestion.

## Safety

The feedback received shows that safety is a main priority for people, with a large proportion of responses raising issues with the current intersection layout at SH29/Cambridge Road and SH29/Belk Road as an immediate safety concern. We also heard that local road intersections with the state highways need to be safe.



*“Support this option as a regular user of SH29, will provide significant safety and travel time benefits.”*

*“Belk Road needs safe access to SH29 now.”*

*“Agree with Option B, especially the separation of through traffic and local traffic.”*

## Short-term transport improvements: the Enabling Works

We heard that the community wants the short-term improvement works to start immediately due to safety concerns with the current road network and the traffic congestion. We also heard concerns that the proposed works won't provide the expected relief to congestion and that there should be additional access points between the Tauriko Business Estate and SH29.



*“Fully support implementation of enabling works as soon as possible.”*

*“Shutting Belk Road and allowing this traffic to transition to SH29 would be spot on for safety improvement.”*

*“Good to have the enabling works done in advance so there is less disruption during construction of the main route”.*

*“Why keep Gargan Road closed, would it not be useful to have multiple exits and entries to the industrial area especially given that trucks are slower at traffic lights and interchanges?”*

*“It's very hard to see how the minor enabling works is going to provide any relief to the existing congestion.”*

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## Long-term transport improvements: emerging preferred option

We received positive feedback on the emerging preferred Option B – Offline for the long-term transport improvements, with a number of people commenting that the design will accommodate future growth and increased traffic in the area.

The feedback highlighted a strong desire for these works to start now.

Some feedback suggested that on- and off-ramps should be included to enable access to Tauriko Village and the new growth area in Tauriko West. There were also a few comments indicating opposition to the planned long-term improvements, with concerns raised over houses being taken and disruption to residents.



*“Option B offline is my preferred option. Mainly for the future growth of our region and the main access route from Port of Tauranga to the Waikato/Auckland. Needs to start ASAP!!”*

*“Option B is a no brainer, there has been 100% support for this option, from all the people we know in Omanawa. Get the pegs hammer out, start now I might live long enough to drive on it. Keep up the good work.”*

## Traffic effects

We heard that congestion related to the current and future SH29/SH29A alignments is a key issue. Many respondents are concerned about existing levels of congestion, and are worried that congestion will increase due to houses being built in Tauriko West before roading infrastructure has been built to create additional capacity and transport options.

We also heard concerns that the short-term enabling works are not enough to get through the next ten years of traffic growth before implementation of the long-term state highway improvements.



*“I simply ask though that you do something to ease the congestion around that Cambridge Rd/SH29 intersection before you create more traffic through additional housing.”*

*“Appreciate there is a dire need for further housing in Tauranga but there needs to be an urgent remedy to the traffic congestion we already have. The enabling works looks to only provide more opportunity to build housing that will add to the congestion rather than providing any meaningful relief.”*

*“We support the additional housing but please create the new roads first.”*

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## Walking, cycling and public transport

We heard that an improved transport network that supports multiple transport modes is important and is done successfully through providing dedicated lanes for walking, cycling and buses. We also heard that dedicated cycle and walking lanes will give residents safety. However, some respondents suggested that there is not enough cycling or public transport demand to warrant building associated infrastructure.



*“Agree with Option B especially the emphasis on non-car alternative means of transport.”*

*“The public transport in Tauranga has never been reliable. Tauranga is just not suited to public transport.”*

*“As for the improved public transport and cycle links, this is a waste of money. Some buses may be needed for the new development, but cycle lanes will just not get used.”*

## Planning for the new community

In this round of engagement, we also updated people on how we’re planning for the new community at Tauriko West. As part of this we asked for feedback on the use of a Streamlined Planning Process under the Resource Management Act to progress the City Plan change to rezone the area for urban development – and for people’s thoughts on how we provide open space (parks and reserves) in new large-scale urban developments like this one.

While a few voices expressed concern about the effect of development on the current amenity of the area, the limited feedback we received on those topics indicated a general desire for Tauranga City Council to progress with the planning required to deliver housing at Tauriko West as fast as possible, as long as the infrastructure is in place to sustain it. Feedback also substantially supported the proposed approach to open space.

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## About the project

Tauriko for Tomorrow is a collaborative project driven by four key partners, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Tauranga City Council and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, who are working together to create great communities and a safe transport network in the western Bay of Plenty, catering for its strong population growth.

With a long-term plan that looks at how best to develop the new community in the western corridor, improve transport links and safety for all users, increase opportunities for public transport and active transport, and protect the freight route to the Port of Tauranga we are implementing the vision of SmartGrowth for the wider region, starting in Tauriko West.

State Highway 29 (SH29) is the key route connecting the Bay of Plenty region with Auckland, Waikato, and the Upper North Island. This route supports the economic success of the western Bay of Plenty. It is vital that growth and liveability, and safety and productivity go hand in hand. The transport plan for the western corridor places importance on public transport solutions, walking and cycling, and local road networks for local journeys.

The area where transport improvements will be made is SH29 from Omanawa Road to the Takitimu Drive Toll Road roundabout, and SH29A to the Barkes Corner intersection (Pyes Pā Road/Cameron Road). It includes improvements for walking and cycling and high frequency public transport connections through the area and encourages people to use the bus, walk and cycle. It integrates into the wider transport network and key local road connections.

These long-term improvements (10 plus years) will support urban growth at Tauriko West and the wider western corridor by providing improved opportunities for public transport and walking and cycling, protection of the freight route and safety for all transport users.

Alongside the long-term planning, Tauranga City Council and Waka Kotahi have identified a package of initial improvements required to the transport network. These short-term transport improvements will enable housing and urban development to commence at Tauriko West, support ongoing development of Tauriko Business Estate and improve access to public transport, walking and cycling connections. The enabling works include a new roundabout on SH29 near Redwood Lane and Belk Road, a new intersection with traffic lights on SH29 to provide access to Tauriko West, and an upgrade of the SH29 and Cambridge Road intersection with traffic lights.

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## Engagement to date

Since 2017, project partners have engaged with landowners and the community on proposed plans for the new community in Tauriko West and options for the upgrade of the transport network to provide access to the new community. This has and continues to involve hui with Te Kauae o Roopu, consultation with directly affected landowners and engagement with stakeholders and key interest groups including NZ Heavy Haulage, Tauriko Primary School, the Tauriko Playcentre, Department of Conservation and Toi Te Ora Public Health.

Feedback received enhances the project team's understanding of the community concerns about the project and where adjustments could be made to the design and proposed staged implementation of these improvements. We'll continue to talk with our partners, stakeholders, landowners and the community as the project progresses.

## Stakeholder feedback

Key stakeholder feedback supports the direction the project is taking, and project partners identified the value of the approach taken to date in working together on developing the plans.

For the long-term improvements, stakeholders are generally supportive of Option B, supporting growth with the right fit transport solution. Overall, there was no opposition to the Enabling Works from the stakeholders we engaged with.

## Mana whenua engagement

For the Tauriko for Tomorrow project, a specific mana whenua partnership group was formed in 2017 known as 'Te Kauae a Roopu'. The group is made up of hapū who whakapapa to Ngāti Ranginui and Ngāi Te Rangi Iwi of Tauranga Moana and have an interest in the Tauriko for Tomorrow project area. This includes Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Rangi, Ngāti Pango, Pirirakau, Ngāti Hangarau, and Ngāi Tamarawaho. Engagement, including regular hui and other project wananga (workshops), has taken place since 2017 and continues as we progress the plans.

As a project partner, Te Kauae a Roopu have also been involved in the option evaluation and assessment process. They have expressed support for the emerging preferred Option B. They have also expressed support for the development of additional housing in the Western Corridor, to help address housing supply and affordability issues.

For the Enabling Works, a subgroup of Te Kauae a Roopu hapū, including Ngāti Hangarau, Ngāi Tamarawaho and Ngāti Kahu, was formed to provide input into the Enabling Works project. Monthly engagement with the hapū group is underway as part of the detailed design process.

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## Next steps

### Enabling Works

- Waka Kotahi and Tauranga City Council are currently completing the detailed design and seeking statutory approvals for the Enabling Works. The programme for construction of the Enabling Works is being developed, with the goal to move into the construction phase in 2023. This is subject to consultation with landowners whose property or access may be affected by the works, consenting requirements and land acquisition.

### Tauriko Network Connections Detailed Business Case

- Waka Kotahi will collate the feedback received from the past five years of consultation and engagement with mana whenua, landowners, stakeholders, interest groups and the community and use it to refine the overall designs and inform the Tauriko Network Connections Detailed Business Case.
- At this stage of the business case there will be further testing of the performance and affordability of the option to ensure it delivers value for money.
- The business case will be used to seek endorsement for funding from the Waka Kotahi Board for the next stages of the project. The business case will go to the Waka Kotahi Board for decision making in 2023.
- In the 2024-27 and 2027-31 National Land Transport Programmes there is no funding allocated for land purchase or implementation of the long-term improvements. The completed Business Case will provide information to reassess the project for inclusion in the next review of the NLTP.  
Delivery will likely be staged over a number of years once funding is approved, and aligned to growth triggers including housing supply, transport mode share, traffic volumes, and funding availability.

### Tauriko community planning

- Tauranga City Council continues to prepare the plan change to rezone Tauriko West under the Tauranga City Plan to provide for housing and urban development. This includes completing the Structure Plan (which integrates with the transport planning underway), the rezoning proposal and rule framework, assessment of effects, and development of a comprehensive stormwater consent.
- Council aims to notify the plan change to rezone Tauriko West mid-2023. This involves the long-term SH29 corridor being confirmed by Waka Kotahi, completion of technical assessments, and confirmation of proposed changes to national policy for freshwater management. The notification of the plan change will provide the public with a further opportunity to input on the final details for the new community.