



Have your say

Toll proposal for Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway

Consultation closes 5pm Monday 7 October 2024



NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) is seeking feedback on a proposal to toll the new 11.5km Manawatū Tararua Highway to support the costs of constructing and maintaining the road.

Improving resilience and supporting growth

NZTA is creating a transport system that is effective, efficient, safe, secure, accessible and resilient to enable the movement of people and freight now and in the future. Our future network will support the Manawatū-Whanganui region as a key freight and transport hub supporting a strong primary production sector.

Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway will replace the Manawatū Gorge route along State Highway 3 (SH3), closed permanently by slips in 2017. It will form a vital strategic North Island transport link that will provide a safer and more reliable route between the lower North Island and the East Coast. People and freight will benefit from more route options and improved travel times.

Light vehicles travelling on the new highway would save an average of 12 minutes per trip and heavy vehicles an average of 14 minutes per trip compared to using the Saddle Road.

We expect heavy vehicles will use the new highway due to significant productivity benefits including an easier, less winding route.

Assessing the highway as a tolled road

Tolling provides an opportunity for an additional source of revenue, protecting the existing funding in the National Land Transport Fund, and will support faster delivery of infrastructure, providing safer and more efficient routes. NZTA will consider tolling of all new roads as outlined in the Government Policy Statement for land transport 2024 (GPS 2024).

NZTA has assessed Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway's suitability as a tolled road. This followed the release of the Government Policy Statement on land transport in 2024, which introduced a new expectation for NZTA to consider tolling to support the construction and maintenance of all new roads.

Tolling assessments are designed to analyse tolling feasibility, including how a potential toll road might interact with the wider transport network.

Tolling to support construction, maintenance and operations costs

Findings from the tolling assessment show that tolling revenue for Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway could make a positive contribution to recouping the project's costs. Vehicles travelling on the road would be ultimately contributing to its construction, ongoing maintenance and operations.

Recouping project costs would ease pressure on the National Land Transport Fund, which is spent on our land transport system – including in our region. The fund is made up of revenue collected from fuel excise duty, road user charges, vehicle and driver registration and licensing, state highway property disposal and leasing, and road tolling, and it is currently constrained.

Availability of alternative routes

All toll roads in New Zealand are required to have a feasible, untolled, alternative route available to road users. In the case of Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway, the untolled alternative routes include the Saddle Road through Ashhurst and the Pahiatua Track.

Modelling shows that around 11,000 vehicles could travel between Manawatū and Tararua each day next year with the new highway in place. It is estimated that with the proposed tolling scheme in place on the new highway, about 37% of all traffic might take an alternative route. However, vehicle numbers on Saddle Road through Ashhurst would still be around half of what they are now. Long term, other tolling sites around the country have seen more traffic move from council-operated routes to tolled routes over time as the benefits of the new road become clear.

Fixed 24-hour tolling

The tolling proposal includes fixed 24-hour toll rates, with one charge for light vehicles and another charge for heavy vehicles.

Toll prices

The toll would be charged each time the road is used.

Section	Light vehicles	Heavy vehicles (Over 3500kg gross vehicle mass)
Between Ashhurst and Woodville	\$4.30	\$8.60

The tolling assessment looked at different toll options and the proposed toll scheme was found to be the best as it makes sure the new road is used a lot while also contributing to the construction, maintenance and operating costs of the road.

Get involved in our online consultation

Let us know what you think of the tolling proposal. You can provide feedback between 9 September and 7 October 2024 by visiting nzta.govt.nz/teahuaturanga-tolling and completing the online submission form.



Scan me

Next steps

Following the consultation period, we will analyse feedback received and provide an engagement report on our website.

All submissions and feedback collected via the public consultation will be summarised to the Minister for Transport. This will provide insights into the level of community support for the proposed tolling scheme in the region.

The NZTA Board will consider the results of the consultation, and the Board may then recommend tolling to the Minister of Transport. The final decision on whether or not to toll each road rests with Cabinet on the recommendation of the Minister of Transport.





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Benefits of a tolled Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway

- Help to recoup project's construction, maintenance and operations costs.
- Ease pressure on the National Land Transport Fund.

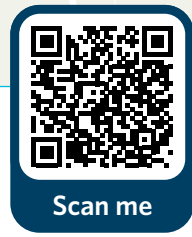
Find out more



You can find out more at nzta.govt.nz/teahuaturanga-tolling



Or scan the QR code above – open the camera on your mobile device and hover over the QR code to be directed to the website.



Submission form

Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway toll consultation

Your details

Full name:

Email:

Address:

Are you submitting:

 Individually On behalf of a business or organisation

Name of the business or organisation (if applicable):

Which area do you live in?

Ashhurst

Woodville

Palmerston North

Pahiatua

Dannevirke

Elsewhere in Manawatū/Whanganui region

Hawke's Bay region

Other

What is your interest in the Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway project?

I live along/near Te Ahu a Turanga

I own property or a business along/near Te Ahu a Turanga

I work in the area

I commute/travel through the area regularly

I visit friends in the area

I visit the area for recreation

I study in the area

I have no link to the area

How will you use Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway?

To get to and from work

To take children to school/after school activities

For recreation or to visit whānau

Walking or cycling along this route

Public transport along this route

I will not use if it is tolled

I will not use this road at all

Other

Your response and privacy

The information you send to us in a written submission or on an online form will be used by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi to help inform our consultation for the Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway. NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi may publish in part or in full the information you submit, for example in a consultation report, but we will not include any information that could be used to identify an individual person. If you have indicated you are an authorised representative of an organisation, we may publish your organisation's name. Please clearly indicate if your comments contain commercially sensitive information or, if for some other reason, they should not be disclosed. If you would like to request official information from us, please don't include that in your submission. Instead, please direct it to the project team at teahuaturanga@nzta.govt.nz so we can respond to it in a timely manner. You can find more about how we hold and protect your information, and our obligations under the Official Information Act on our website.

Please do not disclose details of my submission, for commercial or other reasons.

How to submit your feedback:

- Use our online form at nzta.govt.nz/teahuaturanga-tolling
- Complete the hardcopy form and post it back to us for free.



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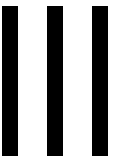
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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Reply



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ATTENTION: Toll proposal for Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway