MIN-3957 Rocks Road

7 September 2022

This note provides you with talking points for your meeting with the Tahunanui Residents Association and Rachel Boyack MP on 8 September 2022.

Nelson Future Access

- Nelson Future Access (NFA) is an investigation into the future transport requirements of Nelson. The recommended programme is designed to create better and safer journeys for all, encouraging those who can, to consider public transport, cycling and walking.

- The NFA Business Case was endorsed by the Nelson City Council and the Waka Kotahi Board in late 2021.

- It includes a programme of improvements which together will:
    - encourage more use of public transport and active transport options
    - free up the roads for essential driving, and
    - increase road safety to reduce death and injury

- At the time that the Business Case was endorsed, the resident's association and local businesses indicated they were concerned about changes being made to the road layout in Tahunanui, particularly the inclusion of priority bus lanes and loss of on-street parking. These concerns have been acknowledged and the team working on the project is aware of the specific issues that have been raised. We have also worked closely with Nelson City Council on the work that has been completed to date.

- The first project identified as part of NFA is changes to the Tāhunanui Drive/Bisley Avenue intersection. Waka Kotahi is still in the early design phase of the changes to this intersection, and we have not yet determined a preferred design for taking to engagement with the community. The work underway is considering a range of options for improving the layout of the intersection.

- Waka Kotahi has previously advised the Council and residents' association that the assessment of design options at this intersection will consider the needs and safety of all road users, including cyclists and pedestrians, as well as heavy vehicles using this as a key freight route.

- We are starting to plan for public engagement and will be speaking with businesses and the community that are directly impacted by the proposed changes, once we have identified a preferred design. Waka Kotahi will progress the detailed design of this change, taking into consideration the feedback from the community and other road users.

- Waka Kotahi is aware of concerns of the Tāhunanui Business and Citizens Association around proposals for the Tāhunanui Drive/Bisley Avenue intersection.

- The Tāhunanui Drive/Bisley Avenue intersection project is scheduled to be delivered in early to mid-2023.

- At this stage we are not proposing priority lanes for public transport through this particular intersection. However, they may be considered in the future as part of the wider priority-lanes package for the key commuter routes on SH6 and Waimea Road.

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Rocks Road Walking and Cycling Package

- Waka Kotahi is proposing a 5m walking and cycling path, which would be separated from traffic along Rocks Road. We would expect the existing seawall to be replaced at the same time as this walking and cycling path is built and for construction to take place within 10 years, subject to funding.

- The Waka Kotahi proposal takes into account the complex legislative framework for coastal marine areas, including the recently proposed 'Outstanding Natural Landscape' (ONL) area identified in the Draft Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan. Even so, design and consenting processes for a project like this would ideally start early to allow for appropriate detailed consultation and input from relevant authorities. Waka Kotahi is proposing that construction takes place within 10 years, but this will depend on funding availability.

- The NFA business case recommends a revetment wall either side of the ONL adjacent to Rocks Road and a vertical wall along the ONL. A revetment wall is considered a better defence against sea level rise and wave action. Along the ONL area, Waka Kotahi is recommending a vertical wall to minimise the impact on the rocks in this location and which are protected by the ONL.

- Days Track pedestrian crossing signalisation: Days Track is a popular walking track and a spot where people currently access the waterfront. Once the priority lanes long-term option is in place, there will be two lanes of regular traffic and a peak period clearway, so by signalising the crossing, pedestrians will have safer access across State Highway 6. However, Days Track was significantly damaged from the recent weather event and at this time, Waka Kotahi is unable to confirm whether Nelson City Council will reinstate it. Signalisation is therefore subject to this reinstatement.

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