

MINO-1074 State Highway 6 / Queen Street intersection in Nelson

6 June 2024

To provide advice regarding queues of traffic from the State Highway 6 (SH6) and Queen Street Intersection in Nelson, and any plans to address this.

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) response:

- NZTA and Tasman District Council completed the Richmond Programme Business Case in 2021 to address Richmond's transport needs over the next 30 years. There were some recommendations from this work that are relevant to Lower Queen Street, such as investigating the optimisation of the Lower Queen Street intersection and extending the lapse date for the designation for the Hope Bypass, which was due to expire in 2023. The full business case can be found on the NZTA website at the following link: www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/richmond-transport-programme-business-case/.
- Traffic volumes in the area have increased over the last five years due to residential and industrial growth in Richmond West as well as continued residential growth in the Moutere Hills. This growth is generating traffic that is entering and exiting SH6 (Gladstone Road) at Lower Queen Street through an intersection that is designed to prioritise through traffic rather than turning traffic.
- Investigation into the traffic delay on SH6 through Richmond in 2019 identified that there could be up to 140 percent (or 10 minutes) variation in travel time for Southbound traffic between 3.00pm and 6.00pm. All other traffic had travel time variation up to 70% (or 5 minutes). Since this investigation, the growth in Richmond West that's noted above has increased travel delay on Lower Queen Street which appears to be creating travel time delay for eastbound traffic between 7.30am and 8.30am. The scale of the delay on Lower Queen Street has not been investigated.
- NZTA investigated what improvements could be made to the signal phasing and found that they were operating well and that adjustments would only make a minor improvement. The proposed adjustments have been implemented and as predicted; the traffic flow improvements were minor.
- The lapse date for the designation for the Hope Bypass has been extended until 2038 to provide the additional time needed to develop and construct the Hope Bypass project.
- The draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport outlines the Roads of National Significance (RoNS). The Hope Bypass is one of these projects. The delivery of this project will address the congestion concerns at Lower Queen Street.
- In the interim (before the delivery of the Hope Bypass), NZTA will also work with Tasman District Council to see whether any local road improvements may help address the issue.

Noted by Minister