



## Project Update

Issue **03**  
April 2012

# Southern Links

## Final Information Days

The excellent community interest at the Preferred Network Information Days for Southern Links late last year and the time required to assess the quantity and variety of the feedback means we have pushed our final information days out to late May. We appreciate communities' continuing understanding.

**More than 800 people signed in for the information days in November/December 2011 and more than 1000 information handouts were taken from the venues.**

The volume and nature of the feedback received has meant the project team needed more time to address the matters raised and consider, where appropriate, how they can be incorporated into the design of the network.

This has caused a delay to the original programme, and the final Information Days for the Southern Links project will now be held on 22, 24 and 26 May 2012. The final information days will show more detail around the location of the network. This will include the width of the proposed designation, the properties to be affected and the types of measures that will be needed to mitigate the effects such as noise. There will be display

### Southern Links Information Days

**Tuesday, May 22**, 2 - 7pm Glenview Club, 211 Peacockes Road, Hamilton

**Thursday May 24**, 2 - 7pm Tamahere Community Centre, Devine Road, Tamahere

**Saturday May 26**, 10am - 2pm, Rukuhia Community Hall, Rukuhia Road, Rukuhia

material which will show how the various interchanges and intersections will look. It is likely a lodgement date for the Notice of Requirement to designate the route will be known by this time.



Peacockes Road/Westonlea Drive Area

## The Local Road Network

Much of the feedback since December has been about the existing local road network and how it will function once the Southern Links network is in place. The project team has been consulting with Hamilton City Council, Waipa and Waikato District Council staff and the airport to refine the preferred network. Our aim is to ensure that the local road network continues to work in the future for residents and businesses. These refinements to the Southern Links network will be explained at the information days in May.

## Hamilton Airport

An important piece of work that has been undertaken is an assessment of the Southern Links network on aviation safety issues associated with Hamilton Airport. The assessment has shown that provided certain design constraints are observed, such as the level of the road and the height and location of light poles, aviation safety at the airport will be maintained.

## Key Investigation Tasks

The project team is currently undertaking some key investigation tasks. The outcome of these tasks will be explained at the final information days in May:

- Modelling expected noise levels from the network - this has included measurements of the existing noise environment throughout the project area.
- Completing ground condition investigations .
- Ongoing ecological surveys.
- Consideration of network staging options.
- Assessing the relationship of the Ruakura development to the Southern Links project.

## Interesting Facts

Since the beginning of the Southern Links project in October 2010, our investigations carried out in the wider project area have revealed some interesting details. Among them are:

- **The peat along the preferred network** in the western area of the project is up to 9m deep (about the height of a three storey building).
- **The southern bank of the Waikato River**, opposite the Hamilton Gardens carpark, contained a very large pa which acted as a busy meeting and trading place. Some evidence of the pa is still visible.
- **Long-tailed bats are present** in various parts of the wider project area and locations outside of the project area. More information about long-tailed bats in general can be found at [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/projectecho](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/projectecho).



Collins Road area looking south-east



### For more information

For further information online visit  
[www.nzta.govt.nz/southern-links](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/southern-links)

## Our Contact Details

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