

Ministerial Direction to refer the Northern Corridor Improvements Proposal to a board of inquiry

Having considered all the relevant factors, I consider that the six notices of requirement and 25 resource consents lodged by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) relating to the the Northern Corridor Improvements to State highway 1 and State highway 18 in Auckland ('the matters') are a proposal of national significance. Under section 147 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), I direct that the matters be referred to a board of inquiry for consideration and decision. My reasons are as follows:

National significance

I consider the matters are a proposal of national significance because:

- The proposal has aroused widespread public interest, and is likely to generate further interest particularly associated with improvements to public transport, and impacts on public reserves, the Watercare Rosedale Wastewater Treatment Ponds, and disturbance to the Closed Rosedale Landfill.
- The designations included as part of the proposal will impact on property ownership, including privately owned land, and public reserves.
- The proposal is required to realise the full benefits associated with the Western Ring Route Road of National Significance and will result in improved travel times, freight movements, network resilience and improved safety for all transport users.

Referral to a board of inquiry

I refer the matters to be decided by a board of inquiry because:

- The board of inquiry process will provide certainty around timing for a decision on the proposal.
- Directing this proposal to a board of inquiry will provide a decision-making body consistent with that used for the Waterview Connection.
- The board of inquiry process provides for a comprehensive assessment of the resource consents and notices of requirement within a streamlined process, while ensuring the public has an opportunity to have their views considered in front of a panel of decision makers skilled in evaluating applications of this scale.

In reaching my decision, I considered:

- The Environmental Protection Authority's recommendation that I refer the matters to a board of inquiry.
- The views of the NZTA and the relevant local authority, Auckland Council, and the capacity of Auckland Council to process the matters.

Dated at Wellington this 8th day of February 2017



Hon Dr Nick Smith

Minister for the Environment