



# Northern Corridor Improvements Proposal

## Notices of requirement and resource consent applications

The New Zealand Transport Agency (Transport Agency) has lodged applications with the Environmental Protection Authority<sup>1</sup> (EPA) for six notices of requirement and 25 resource consent applications ("the matters") for the Northern Corridor Improvements Project ("the proposal") in Auckland. In accordance with section 149C of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the EPA gives notice of the direction of the Hon Dr Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment, to refer the matters to a Board of Inquiry.

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 8 February 2017

Hon Dr Nick Smith  
Minister for the Environment

### The matters

#### Notices of requirement and resource consents applied for under Auckland Council's jurisdiction

##### Notices of Requirement

- NSP39/001:** An alteration to a designation (Auckland Unitary Plan – Operative in Part 2016, Designation 6750) for the construction, operation and maintenance of a State highway, being the Auckland-Waiwera Motorway between Greville Road Interchange and Oteha Valley Road.
- NSP39/002:** An alteration to a designation (Auckland Unitary Plan – Operative in Part 2016, Designation 6751) for the construction, operation and maintenance of a State highway, being the Auckland Waiwera Motorway between Greville Road Interchange and the Sunset Road overbridge.
- NSP39/003:** An alteration to a designation (Auckland Unitary Plan – Operative in Part 2016, Designation 6756) for the construction, operation and maintenance of a State highway, being State Highway 18 between Albany Highway and State Highway 1.
- NSP39/004:** A designation for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Northern Busway adjacent to State Highway 1 from Albany Bus Station to Constellation Bus Station.
- NSP39/005:** A designation for the construction, operation and maintenance of a shared use path adjacent to State Highway 1 from Constellation Bus Station to Oteha Valley Road.
- NSP39/006:** An alteration to a designation (Auckland Unitary Plan – Operative in Part 2016, Designation 6758) for the upgrade of the Constellation Bus Station.

##### Resource Consents

###### Land Use Consent

- NSP39/007:** Vegetation alteration or removal within the riparian margins of Lucas Creek, Alexandra Stream and Oteha Stream in relation to the operation, maintenance, renewal, repair, construction and removal of stormwater outfalls.
- NSP39/008:** Vegetation alteration or removal within a Significant Ecological Area at the Rosedale Wastewater Treatment Plant in relation to the operation, maintenance, renewal, repair, construction and removal of network utilities.
- NSP39/009:** Earthworks greater than 50,000m<sup>2</sup> where land has a slope less than 10 degrees outside the Sediment Control Protection Area.
- NSP39/010:** Earthworks greater than 2,500m<sup>2</sup> where the land has a slope equal to or greater than 10 degrees.
- NSP39/011:** Earthworks greater than 2,500m<sup>2</sup> within the Sediment Control Protection Area.
- NSP39/012:** Earthworks from 10m<sup>2</sup> to 2,500m<sup>2</sup> and from 5m<sup>3</sup> to 2,500m<sup>3</sup> within a Significant Ecological Area (SEA\_T\_8364).
- NSP39/013:** Earthworks for infrastructure greater than 2500m<sup>2</sup> or 2,500m<sup>3</sup> within a Significant Ecological Area (SEA\_T\_8365).

###### Land Use Consents and Water Permits

- NSP39/014:** Activities in, on, under or over the bed of a lake – replacement, upgrading or extension of an existing structure in a Significant Ecological Area (including associated bed disturbance or depositing any substance, diversion of water and incidental temporary damming of water).
- NSP39/015:** Activities in, on, under or over the bed of a river – activities involving works on existing structures (including associated bed disturbance or depositing any substance, diversion of water and incidental temporary damming of water).
- NSP39/016:** Activities in, on, under or over the bed of a lake – Stormwater outfall in a Significant Ecological Area (SEA\_T\_8365) (including associated bed disturbance or depositing any substance, reclamation, diversion of water and incidental temporary damming of water).
- NSP39/017:** Activities in, on, under or over the bed of a lake – Surface water intake structure in a Significant Ecological Area (SEA\_T\_8364) (including associated bed disturbance or depositing any substance, reclamation, diversion of water and incidental temporary damming of water).
- NSP39/018:** Activities in, on, under or over the bed of a river – Reclamation / drainage of the watercourses south of Pond 1 at the Rosedale Wastewater Treatment Plant (including associated structures, bed disturbance or depositing any substance, diversion of water and incidental temporary damming of water).

###### Water Permits

- NSP39/019:** Diversion of surface water during operation.
- NSP39/020:** Diversion of surface water during construction.
- NSP39/021:** Dewatering and groundwater level control associated with groundwater diversion.
- NSP39/022:** Diversion of groundwater caused by excavations.

###### Water Permit and Discharge Permit

- NSP39/023:** Diversion and discharge of stormwater during operation.
- NSP39/024:** Stormwater discharge from the development or redevelopment of existing high use roads.
- NSP39/025:** Stormwater discharge from the development or redevelopment of new or existing impervious areas greater than 50m<sup>2</sup> within a Stormwater Management Area – Flow 1 or Flow 2 control.
- NSP39/026:** Stormwater discharge from the development or redevelopment of new or existing impervious areas greater than 5,000m<sup>2</sup> for a road, motorway, or State highway within a Stormwater Management Area – Flow 1 or Flow 2 control.
- NSP39/027:** Discharge of water and contaminants into or onto land or water from the construction, repair, maintenance, upgrade or removal or network utility infrastructure.
- NSP39/028:** Discharges to air from earthworks and the construction, maintenance and repair of public roads.
- NSP39/029:** Discharges of contaminants to air from waste processes at the Rosedale Closed Landfill.
- NSP39/030:** Discharges of contaminants to air, land or water from contaminated land.

###### Discharge Permits

- NSP39/031:** Disturbance and removal of soils from contaminated or potentially contaminated land under the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011.

**Siobhan Quayle**  
General Manager, Climate, Land and Oceans  
Under delegation of the Environmental Protection Authority

### Where the information can be viewed

The Transport Agency's notices of requirement and resource consent application documents provide a complete description of the proposal, and include an assessment of the proposal's effects on the environment supported by technical reports and plan sets. These documents can be viewed on the EPA website [www.epa.govt.nz/northerncorridor](http://www.epa.govt.nz/northerncorridor)

The application can also be viewed in hard copy at the following locations during their normal opening hours for the duration of the proposal:

- EPA Office – 215 Lambton Quay, Wellington
- Albany Village Library – Kell Drive, Albany, Auckland
- Takapuna Library – 9 The Strand, Takapuna, Auckland
- Orewa Library – 12 Moana Avenue, Orewa
- Orewa Service Centre – 50 Centreway Road, Stanmore Bay, Orewa
- East Coast Bays Library (in Browns Bay) – Bute Road, Browns Bay, North Shore, Auckland
- Auckland Central City Library – 44/46 Lorne Street, Auckland

### How to make a submission

Anyone can make a submission on the matters, in writing, in the prescribed form. Submissions must be received by the EPA no later than **5pm 22 March 2017**.

You can make your submission online at [www.epa.govt.nz/ncisubmit](http://www.epa.govt.nz/ncisubmit). Alternatively, you can print a submission form from the EPA website, or you can request one by contacting the Friend of Submitter on 0800 426 843.

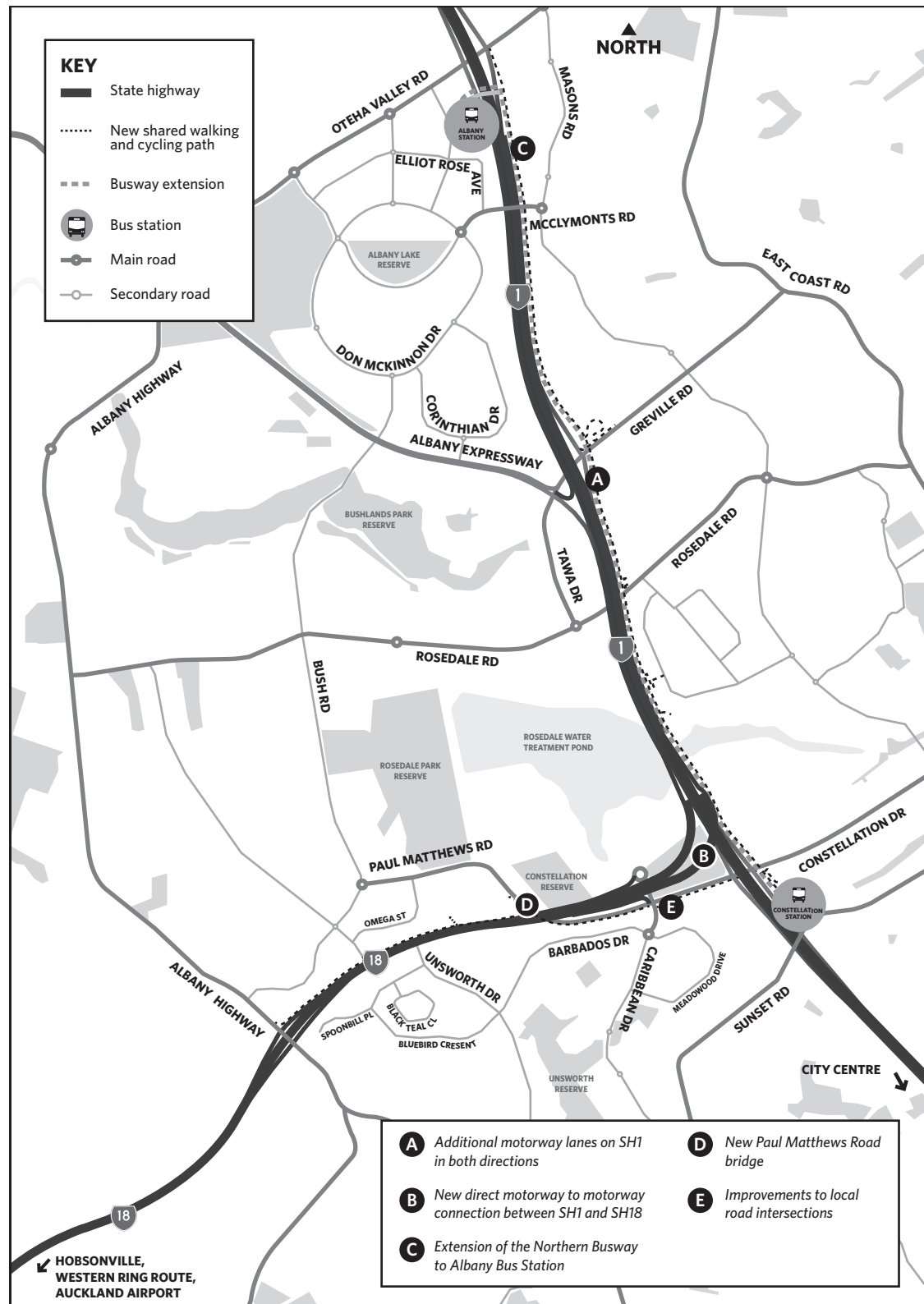
Written submissions to the EPA can be delivered by email, post or in person. EPA's contact details are:

- **Email:** [NorthernCorridor@epa.govt.nz](mailto:NorthernCorridor@epa.govt.nz) (if the message is smaller than 10 MB)
- **Postal Address:** EPA (Attention: NCI Proposal), Private Bag 63002, Waterloo Quay, Wellington 6140; or
- **Physical Address:** EPA (Attention: NCI Proposal), Level 10, 215 Lambton Quay, Wellington.

You **must** also send a copy of your submission to the NZ Transport Agency at the same time that you send your submission to the EPA via the details below. This will occur **automatically** if you make an online submission.

NZ Transport Agency contact details for written submissions are:

- **Email:** [NCISubmissions@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:NCISubmissions@nzta.govt.nz) (if smaller than 10 MB)
- **Postal Address:** New Zealand Transport Agency (Attention: Deepak Rama), NCI Proposal, Private Bag 106602, Auckland 1143; or
- **Physical Address:** New Zealand Transport Agency (Attention: Deepak Rama), NCI Proposal, at Level 11, HSBC House, 1 Queen Street, Auckland.



### The proposal

The proposal intends to upgrade the capacity and safety of the sections of State highway 1 (SH1) and State highway 18 (SH18) between Albany Highway and Oteha Valley Road as well as direct motorway interchange connections between SH1 and SH18. This work will provide the final motorway connection for the Western Ring Route Project. The proposal also includes an extension of the Northern Busway ("the Busway") from Constellation Bus Station to Albany Bus Station and shared use paths.

The proposed changes to SH1 can be generally described as:

- Widening of the carriageway to include extra general traffic lanes in each direction between Oteha Valley Road and Constellation Drive including the widening of SH1 overbridges to Greville Road and Rosedale Road;
- Upgrade to the northbound off-ramp of the SH1/Oteha Valley Road interchange and to both the northbound and southbound off-ramps and northbound on-ramp of the SH1 /Greville Road interchange;
- Provision of a new dual direction busway (Northern Busway Extension) adjacent to the southbound carriageway shoulder of SH1 between the Albany and Constellation Stations;
- Provision of a new off-road Shared Use Path (approximately 4km) adjacent to the southbound carriageway of the Northern Busway Extension;
- Offline replacement (to immediate south) of McClymonts Road overbridge with the inclusion of a cycle lane and footpaths on either side; and
- Widening of Rosedale Road in both directions (east/west bound) including the inclusion of footpaths on either side.

SH18 will be upgraded to full motorway standard from the Albany Highway interchange to SH1. The proposed changes to SH18 can be generally described as:

- Offline realignment to the north of the existing SH18 section between the Albany Highway interchange and SH1 providing two lanes in either direction and improvement of the existing substandard westbound off-ramp sight distance to the Albany Highway interchange;
- Upgrade to the Caribbean Drive T-junction intersection with the Upper Harbour Highway to accommodate additional lanes;
- Provision of a new Paul Matthews Road interchange with a westbound on-ramp and eastbound off-ramp only;
- Closure of the existing Upper Harbour Highway off-ramps to the Z petrol station and to Unsworth Drive; and
- Provision of a new off-road Shared Use Path (approximately 2.3km) from Albany Highway interchange to Constellation Drive.

The Northern Busway extension will require the following works to Albany and Constellation Bus Stations:

- Reconfiguration of the car park to provide for the busway link into the Albany Station;
- Minor reconfiguration of the Albany Bus interchange and adjacent signalised intersection of Cornerstone Drive and Elliot Rose Avenue; and
- Upgrades to Constellation Station to provide facilities for the new northbound busway movements as well as a new pedestrian overpass linking the northbound and southbound platforms.

The notices of requirement and a list of the consents sought is set out under the list of matters.

### Assistance with the process

#### Public information afternoon to explain the board of inquiry process

The EPA will host a public information afternoon to outline the board of inquiry process. The details are as follows:

- Saturday 4 March 2017, 1pm – 3pm Takapuna War Memorial Hall, 7 The Strand, Takapuna.

#### Friend of Submitter

The EPA has appointed Michael Campbell as an independent 'Friend of Submitter'. The Friend of Submitter will hold free sessions to provide assistance to potential submitters. For session times and locations go to [www.epa.govt.nz/northerncorridor](http://www.epa.govt.nz/northerncorridor), or contact the EPA on 0800 722 667 or [NorthernCorridor@epa.govt.nz](mailto:NorthernCorridor@epa.govt.nz). Alternatively, you can contact the Friend of Submitter directly:

- Michael Campbell of Campbell Brown, email [michael@campbellbrown.co.nz](mailto:michael@campbellbrown.co.nz) or telephone 0800 426 843.

### Minister's Direction

#### 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 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.

<sup>1</sup>The Environmental Protection Authority is a Crown entity, responsible for a variety of activities including the processing of applications of national significance.