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6 November 2024

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Cc: Infrastructure and Assets Group
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Dear Sir/Madam

Waikato Regional Council Submission to Notice of Requirement – Rotokauri Strategic Infrastructure Designation

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Notice of Requirement – Rotokauri Strategic Infrastructure Designation. Please find attached the Waikato Regional Council's staff submission regarding this document. This submission was signed out under delegated authority on 6 November 2024. We look forward to being involved in further discussion on this subject.

Should you have any queries regarding the content of this document please contact Katrina Andrews, Senior Policy Advisor, Strategic and Spatial Planning directly on (07) 8590929 or by email Katrina.Andrews@waikatoregion.govt.nz.

Regards,

Chris McLay
Chief Executive

6 November 2024

Introduction

1. Waikato Regional Council (WRC) staff appreciate the opportunity to make a submission to the Notice of Requirement – Rotokauri Strategic Infrastructure Designation (NoR).
2. In this case, the key areas of interest relate to public transport and integrated catchment management (including stormwater management and flood hazards).
3. We consider the objectives of the proposal and the transport design ethos in the NoR align well with WRC's objectives to shift away from being a car-dominated region to an efficient and effective active and public transport region with safe and affordable alternative transportation choices. We recommend two additional designation conditions in relation to public transport.
4. We recommend some further assessment in relation to stormwater management and flood hazards.
5. Specific recommendations, including recommended conditions, are outlined in the table below.

Submitter details

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I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission
I am not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:
(a) does not adversely affect the environment; and
(b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

Table of specific submission point: WRC staff submission to Notice of Requirement – Rotokauri Strategic Infrastructure Designation

Submission point	Provision	Support/ Oppose	Submission	Relief sought
Transport				
6.	Notice of Requirement – transport aspects	Support	<p>We support the NoR from a transport perspective, for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The designation for the strategic arterial network enables Hamilton City Council to deliver critical infrastructure to an area zoned for future growth. • The objectives of the project are consistent with the General development principles in APP11 of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement (WRPS) that seek to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not compromise the safe, efficient and effective operation and use of existing and planned infrastructure, including transport infrastructure... • Connect well with existing and planned development and infrastructure • Promote compact urban form, design and location to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ minimise energy and carbon use; ○ minimise the need for private motor vehicle use; ○ maximise opportunities to support and take advantage of public transport in particular by encouraging employment activities in locations that are or can in the future be served efficiently by public transport; ○ encourage walking, cycling and multi-modal transport connections; and ○ maximise opportunities for people to live, work and play within their local area. • The use of the transport hierarchy that prioritises multi-modal transport options aligns with the outcomes sought in the Waikato Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-2051, such as those 	No relief sought.

			<p>relating to transport emissions reduction, integrated transport systems that support future growth, and improved accessibility and transport options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed arterial network supports the 30-year vision for the public transport network in the Waikato Regional Public Transport Plan 2022-2032. • Public transport prioritisation along several of the zones identified in the NoR. • Connections to Rotokauri Transport Hub contribute to the delivery of a reliable and efficient bus service. 	
7.	Conditions	Additional conditions recommended	<p>We recommend continued discussions with WRC's public transport planning team prior to detailed design work being undertaken to ensure adequate provision is made for public transport route planning and infrastructure.</p>	<p>We recommend the following conditions be included on the designation in relation to public transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Requiring Authority must give at least 12 weeks written notice to Waikato Regional Council of disruption to public transport routes during construction. • The Requiring Authority must engage with Waikato Regional Council prior to detailed design work to ensure adequate provision is made for public transport elements and infrastructure, including bus priority lanes, bus stop location planning, bus stop design and other matters that enable safe and efficient delivery of public transport services.

Integrated catchment management				
8.	Conditions	Additional condition recommended	The WRC-managed Waikato Central Drainage Scheme is located to the north of the proposed designation.	We recommend a condition be included on the designation to the effect that "Where diversion of stormwater into Waikato Regional Council managed drains is proposed in the future, Waikato Regional Council's Integrated Catchment Management directorate shall be consulted and provisions shall be made to address downstream effects on the drainage network, such as increased flooding (magnitude and duration) and erosion. These adequate provisions must include upgrading the downstream network to offset the identified effects".
9.	Notice of Requirement Appendix D – Design Report	Further assessment recommended	The Design Report provides that the road network will form part of the flood conveyance into the Greenway Corridor. There is no assessment of the future frequency and magnitude of such overflows. There is also no assessment of the risks associated with disruption to the transport network resulting from such overflow events and duration of disruption, or the effects of utilising the proposed strategic roading network infrastructure for flood conveyance on the infrastructure itself. We consider the 2023 Auckland Anniversary flood event and associated disruption and effect on the community should be taken as a lesson for such consideration.	Provide further assessment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The future frequency and magnitude of flood overflows to the roading network. • The risks associated with disruption to the transport network resulting from such overflow events and duration of disruption. • The effects of utilising the proposed strategic roading network infrastructure for flood conveyance on the infrastructure itself.

10.	Notice of Requirement – statutory assessment	Further assessment recommended	We are concerned that no assessment has been undertaken against the Hazards and risks (HAZ) chapter of the WRPS within the NoR or supporting appendices.	Provide an assessment of the proposed designation against the Hazards and risks (HAZ) chapter of the WRPS.
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3.0 FURTHER INFORMATION AND HEARINGS

- 3.1 WRC **wishes to be heard** at the hearings for Notice of Requirement – Rotokauri Strategic Infrastructure Designation in support of this submission and is prepared to consider a joint submission with others making a similar submission.
- 3.2 WRC **could not** gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.