

Request to vary the Regional Land Transport Plan for Taranaki 2015-2021

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| Purpose: | To enable the Regional Transport Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council to consider a request for a variation to the <i>Regional Land Transport Plan for Taranaki 2015-21 (RLTP)</i> . |
| Requesting organisation: | NZ Transport Agency |
| Contact person/s: | Ross I'Anson |
| Variation request: | Add new Single Phase Business Case – Surfacing SH43 |
| <p>Background to variation request</p> <p>SH43 has been experiencing an increase in tourism traffic, with the 12km unsealed section through the Tangarakau Gorge becoming more of an inhibitor as tourist numbers grow through the central plateau and the Taranaki Region.</p> <p>The Taranaki Economic Development Action Plan has prioritised the sealing of SH43 as one of the top priorities for the region.</p> | |
| <p>Details of variation request</p> <p>A single phase business case, to determine the feasibility for investing in the sealing of the remaining 12km of unsealed state highway through the Tangarakau Gorge.</p> | |
| Location: | State Highway 43 (Tangarakau Gorge) |
| Scope and duration: | Single phase business case; three months commencing January 2018 |
| Estimated cost/s: | \$280,000 |
| Funding source/s: | N Funds - State Highway Improvements Activity Class |
| <p>Links to Objectives & Policies of RLTP:</p> <p><i>Refer to Table 5 on page 48 of the Plan</i></p> | <p>This variation achieves the objectives of the RLTP through adding to an effective, efficient and resilient land transport system that enhances economic wellbeing, growth and productivity in the Taranaki region and beyond.</p> <p>This project will contribute most significantly to supporting growth, specifically policies G1 and G3.</p> |
| Impacts on RLTP: | The proposal does not negatively affect any other projects in the RLTP, nor affect the overall integrity/affordability of the Plan. |
| <p>Relationship to the RLTP's Significance policy on variations:</p> <p><i>Refer to Section 7.4 on page 59 of Plan</i></p> | <p>This proposed update of the current RLTP does not require a new public consultation process as it is considered a 'minor' variation. While it is a new project, it is one that has been long advocated for, and is likely to have the majority support of the Taranaki community.</p> |

Process for consideration and approval of variation requests

The current RLTP for Taranaki was approved in April 2015 and any significant new capital works that need to be included require a variation to the programme of activities component of the RLTP. A project must be included within the RLTP before it can be approved for funding from the National Land Transport Fund which the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) distributes through the National Land Transport Programme.

In accordance with the RLTP variation policy, any variation to the RLTP should be considered and supported by the Regional Transport Advisory Group (RTAG) before being forwarded to the Regional Transport Committee (RTC) for consideration and endorsement, then to the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) for final approval. The NZTA is then notified of the varied Plan, per section 18D of the *Land Transport Management Act 2003*.

Timeframes for consideration of variation request

The following outlines the expected timeframes for processing this variation request. The organisation requesting the variation is responsible for outlining the proposal to the RTAG and RTC.

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| Consideration by RTAG | 24 November 2017 (via email) | <i>Progression to the following step will only occur if support of the variation request is given by the considering body.</i> |
| Consideration by RTC | Wednesday 29 November 2017 | |
| Consideration by TRC | Tuesday 12 December 2017 | |
| Forward to NZTA | Thursday 14 December 2017 | |

Supporting attachments

None