

TAKITIMU NORTHERN LINK – STAGE 2 – FASTTRACK APPLICATION

CONFERENCE AGENDA – ECOLOGY

Detailed design / management plan approach

1. Is the general approach of leaving matters for further refinement during the detailed design stage to better understand ecology impacts, or to avoid ecology impacts, appropriate? Are there specific matters which could be addressed in this way and others that should? How should unforeseen effects arising post-consent be appropriately managed at the consenting stage? Are the set of draft conditions sufficient to provide assurance that effects can be managed through the future delivery of management plans?
2. Should the draft conditions contain specified limits to impacts, including limits to the loss of wetland area and stream length? Is the level of detail provided by the Applicant appropriate with regard to objectives, performance standards, and outcome monitoring, reporting and adaptive management where ecological effects are anticipated and are proposed to be managed by way of mitigation, offsetting or compensation?

Controls to protect high value wetlands

3. What additional controls on stormwater and earthworks during construction are required to ensure that discharge near these sensitive wetland areas including Merrin Wetland and Omokoroa Wetland, is appropriately managed. *[Note: this may be a question initially for the applicant's water engineer]*

Wetland assessment

4. What is an appropriate approach and ratio framework for addressing the loss of wetland values and extent in the project footprint?

Indirect effects on wetlands and streams

5. Have potential indirect effects on streams and wetlands been sufficiently addressed in the effects description and effects management package (for example the potential dewatering of wetlands through groundwater or surface water changes)? If not, what further information is required?

Stream assessments

6. What is the appropriate approach to the assessment of stream values, including magnitude of effects and the approach to stream mitigation and offsetting. Are the proposed conditions appropriate to ensure delivery of the proposed package of ecological enhancements or should draft management plan(s) be provided?

Key matters for discussion are:

- a. The reliance on stream alignments to manage loss of streams.
- b. How the assessment of the level of effect of stream loss influences the approach to mitigation or offsetting.

- c. How potential values have or have not been incorporated into calculations of stream offsetting.
- d. The level of assurance provided by the conditions around stream realignment design and quality of outcome, and the location, state, proposed enhancement management, and anticipated outcomes for stream offsetting.
- e. Is it appropriate to rely upon conditions that provide a future Culvert and Stream Hydraulic Design Report, rather than providing a draft of that report as part of the Application.

Bird surveys

- 7. How has the assumed presence of high-value birds such as fernbird, bittern, crake, kaka and others been specifically incorporated into requirements to avoid impacts on nesting (from direct habitat removal or machinery operation nearby during nesting season), and through the design of the mitigation and offset package for planting, stream, and wetland creation and enhancement?

Loss of indigenous vegetation

- 8. Has the proposed loss of vegetation community values (for example, nesting habitat, bird food resources, ecological function, habitat connectivity) been appropriately addressed in the effects management package?

Lizard management

- 9. Should the Lizard Management Plan include detail on how the loss of potential lizard habitat will be replaced (as well as including the capture and relocation of lizards from the footprint, as is addressed in the current draft LMP)?

Hapū values, effects and engagement

- 10. What are the cultural values and / or effects relevant to any of the above issues? How might they be addressed?
- 11. What role do hapū seek in the development and implementation of management plans?