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Submission on Fast-track Application – SH1 Woodend Bypass (Belfast to Pegasus)

Tēnā koe,

I am writing to provide feedback on the proposed State Highway 1 North Canterbury - Woodend Bypass project currently being considered under the fast-track approvals process.

I live at [REDACTED], within the Copper Beech Estate area. Our property is located approximately 400–600 metres from the proposed motorway alignment, depending on the final alignment position. I have a strong interest in how this project may affect the local environment, particularly in relation to flooding, stormwater management, and long-term noise effects.

Flooding and Stormwater Management

My primary concern is whether the stormwater modelling undertaken for the project is sufficiently sensitive to local drainage patterns to confidently demonstrate that flood risk will not increase for surrounding properties, particularly within Copper Beech Estate and along Woodend Beach Road.

Large-scale roading projects introduce extensive areas of sealed surface and altered drainage pathways, which typically increase stormwater runoff volumes and peak flows. In this context, it is important that the modelling clearly demonstrates that these changes have been fully accounted for under a range of rainfall scenarios, rather than relying solely on high-level catchment assumptions.

The local area (Woodend Beach Road – Copper Beech Estate) is influenced by multiple interacting drainage pathways, including runoff associated with the MacIntosh Drain and wider hydrological influences connected to the Waihora Stream Catchment. Because drainage in this area is complex, modelling that looks only at the wider catchment may miss the effects experienced on individual properties unless those locations are specifically assessed, particularly during significant rainfall events which we have experienced yearly for the past three years.

While I note, the Stormwater and Flooding Assessment has been prepared for the project as part of the fast-track process (https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0022/19363/3L-Stormwater-and-Flooding-Assessment_Redacted.pdf), there is concern that the assessment does not sufficiently explore localised drainage behaviour and property-level effects in the downstream Woodend Beach Road area, which lies centrally within the overall project corridor flood assessment. Given the mixed formal and informal drainage systems present in this area, further location-specific assessment would assist in providing confidence that modelling conclusions appropriately reflect real-world conditions.

To provide confidence that flood risk will not increase, it would be important to consider as part of the fast-track approval:

- More detailed stormwater modelling outputs that test heavy rainfall and extreme weather events, and that demonstrate how conclusions differ, or remain valid, beyond standard design events.
- Clear, location-specific modelling outputs for Copper Beech Estate and Woodend Beach Road, rather than averaged catchment-scale results – considering the central and cross-sectional location of this residential urban area.
- Evidence that combined catchment and drainage effects have been assessed together, rather than in isolation.
- Clear confirmation, supported by modelling outputs, that the project will not increase flood risk to nearby properties under both design and stress-test conditions.
- Appropriate mitigation measures where required, including drainage upgrades or water storage solutions, and
- Ongoing monitoring and review conditions if the project proceeds.

Cumulative Effects – Kaiapoi River Works and Quarry Areas

There is also concern that the assessment may not fully consider cumulative environmental effects arising from other changes within the wider catchment.

In particular, this includes:

- Works and changes associated with the Kaiapoi River, which may influence broader drainage behaviour, and
- The planned filling of existing quarry ponds, which currently appear to provide some level of water storage or buffering during heavy rainfall events.

From a practical perspective, these features likely currently play an important role in slowing or temporarily storing water during peak rainfall events. Their alteration, when considered alongside the motorway project, could affect how water moves through the wider landscape, particularly during extreme weather conditions. This should be considered alongside the above points, again considering the centralised/cross sectional impacts for our location.

Noise Effects

Long-term operational noise is also a concern, particularly from increased traffic volumes once the motorway is in use. Considering our location, approximately 400–600 metres from the motorway, there is a reasonable expectation that traffic noise may be noticeable at times, particularly during night-time periods when background noise levels are lower.

It would be helpful to have:

- Clear predicted noise levels for Copper Beech Estate and Woodend Beach Road.
- Early identification of any areas where noise may approach guideline levels, and
- Consideration of mitigation options such as bunding, noise barriers, or low-noise road surfaces, along with post-construction noise monitoring where required. In particular, it

would be important to understand whether noise mitigation proposed elsewhere along the project corridor has been considered for the Copper Beech / Woodend Beach Road area, and whether mitigation may be required based on predicted noise levels for this location.

Overall Approach

I am supportive of necessary infrastructure development in the region; however, it is important that local environmental effects are properly understood and managed. Given the streamlined nature of the fast-track process under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, it is particularly important that potential effects are clearly identified up-front and supported by robust, enforceable conditions where required.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I trust that these points will be considered as part of the assessment process and look forward to your feedback on how these points will be addressed.

Ngā mihi,
Olivia Penrose (Cleaver)