



PART D

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi
SH1 Wellington Improvements

Approval relating to the Wildlife Act 1953 (Lizards)

14 AUGUST 2026

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1 INTRODUCTION

Under section 42(4)(h) of the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA), an application may seek a wildlife approval that would otherwise be sought under the Wildlife Act 1953 (Wildlife Act). This document sets out the specific information and decision-making requirements that must be addressed under the FTAA for an application for wildlife approval. This part of the application should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Part A, Project overview and benefits
- Part B, Approvals relating to the Resource Management Act 1991
- Technical Assessment Report #10 – Terrestrial Ecology (Terrestrial Ecology Assessment)
- Lizard Management Plan (LMP) – Prepared by Tonkin + Taylor

1.1 Project overview

The State Highway 1 (SH1) Wellington Improvements project (the Project) is a Road of National Significance (RoNS) which improves SH1 in Wellington City. The proposal includes the construction, or improvements to SH1 within Wellington City, extending over 5 km through the city. The Project will provide for more efficient and reliable access on SH1 and includes duplicate tunnels at The Terrace and Mount Victoria, a new layout at the Basin Reserve as well as improvements along the remainder of the SH1 corridor from north of the Terrace Tunnel to the intersection of Cobham Drive and Evans Bay Parade. The Project aims to attract traffic onto SH1, reduce traffic on other key routes, unblock critical bottlenecks on the State Highway, maintain access for local movements and enable public transport growth.

1.2 Ecological context

The Project sits across numerous ecological features including the Town Belt around the Mount Victoria and Terrace Tunnels, private gardens, and mature specimen trees.

The area which the proposed activity for this wildlife approval application relates to is shown in Appendix A. This includes:

- The areas within the Project area¹ containing lizard habitat and where there is therefore the potential for lizard to be present (lizard habitat areas); and
- The proposed lizard relocation site (relocation site)

2 PURPOSE OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

This section and the following sections of this application address the information requirements for wildlife approval applications under the FTAA in clause 2, Schedule 7 of the FTAA and the criteria for assessment under clause 5 of that Schedule.

Clause 2(1)(a), Schedule 7 of the FTAA requires the application to specify the purpose of the proposed activity.

The 'proposed activity' for this wildlife approval application is to **salvage and relocate indigenous lizards** from the lizard habitat areas illustrated in Appendix A and relocate them to the relocation site also illustrated there. Specifically, approval is sought to:

- Catch alive and handle indigenous lizards from the lizard habitat areas
- Liberate/release indigenous lizards within the relocation site
- Mark indigenous lizards using a xylene-free marker pen to enable individuals to be identified; and

¹ 'Project area' refers to the overall Application site as illustrated on the RMA approvals drawings included in Part B, Appendix B

- Incidentally harm or kill lizards if the harm or death is not directly intended but is unavoidable and foreseeable and all reasonable effort has been made to meet the conditions in the approval

The purpose of the proposed activity (salvage and relocation of indigenous lizards) is to minimise disturbance, injury, or incidental mortality to indigenous lizards during construction activities within or adjacent to the lizard habitat areas. Approximately 5.56 ha of potential habitat has been identified within the Project area (see Appendix A and the LMP). Due to low mobility, lizards may not be able to disperse during site preparation and vegetation clearance works. Removal of potential habitat may result in displacement, stress, injury or incidental mortality of indigenous lizards.

Prior to construction works commencing, a salvage and relocation programme will be implemented two weeks immediately prior to, and during vegetation clearance works, as detailed in the LMP. Lizards will be relocated to the relocation site (as detailed in Section 8) in accordance with DoC's key principles for lizard and salvage transfer (DoC, 2019).

3 ACTIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT INVOLVING PROTECTED WILDLIFE

Clause 2(1)(b), Schedule 7 requires the application to identify the actions the applicant wishes to carry out involving protected wildlife and where those actions will be carried out (including whether on or off public conservation land).

Indigenous lizards are protected wildlife. The actions proposed to be carried out involving indigenous lizards are described above, along with the proposed locations for those actions. None of the actions are proposed on 'public conservation land' as defined by the FTAA.² Instead, the actions are mainly proposed on Wellington Town Belt land, which is subject to the Wellington Town Belt Act 2016 (and not the Reserves Act 1977). As described further below there is also the low potential for lizards to be found in and around the Basin Reserve area³.

Indigenous lizard salvage and relocation (detailed in Section 8) will be implemented within the lizard habitat areas subject to vegetation clearance. The extent of lizard habitat areas requiring clearance has reduced by up to 10% following updates to consent design, and some lizard habitat areas may be further avoided through the final design.

4 ASSESSMENT OF THE ACTIVITY AGAINST THE PURPOSE OF THE WILDLIFE ACT 1953

Clause 2(1)(c), Schedule 7 of the FTAA requires the application to include an assessment of the activity and its impacts against the purpose of the Wildlife Act.

The Wildlife Act does not contain a standalone purpose section, but the Courts have confirmed that the Wildlife Act has a protective purpose. By applying the proposed methods to catch, handle and relocate lizards (Section 8) following best practice techniques (Section 7), all reasonable measures to minimise effects on indigenous lizards during habitat removal will be followed, which is consistent with the protective purpose of the Wildlife Act.

In addition, potential risks of lizard salvage and relocation, and measures proposed to avoid and minimise these risks are described in Section 11. Through the implementation of these measures, as well as incidental discovery protocols (detailed in Section 10 of the LMP), it is considered that all reasonable measures will be applied to minimise adverse effects on indigenous lizards during the proposed salvage and relocation, which is consistent with the protective purpose of the Wildlife Act.

² Section 4 of the FTAA

³ These activities would not be on the Basin Reserve itself, which is managed under the Reserves Act and therefore public conservation land under the FTAA

5 PROTECTED WILDLIFE KNOWN OR PREDICTED TO BE IN THE AREA

Clause 2(1)(d) of Schedule 7 of the FTAA requires the application to list protected wildlife species known or predicted to be in the area and, where possible, the numbers of wildlife present and numbers likely to be impacted. This information is provided below.

5.1 Lizard species values

Seven indigenous lizard species have been recorded within a 5 km radius of the Project area (Table 1). Of these, copper skink (*Oligosoma aeneum*, At Risk – Declining; Hitchmough et al., 2025) is the only species that has been recorded during surveys associated with the Project, as outlined in the Terrestrial Ecology Assessment. Tracking tunnel results detected skink prints across two locations, with nearby records, microhabitat type, and an assessment of footprint characteristics suggesting strongly they originate from northern grass skink (*Oligosoma polychroma*, Not Threatened; Hitchmough et al., 2025). The remaining two species of indigenous skinks were not detected across the Project area, however, may be present in low numbers in areas of suitable habitat at specific locations across the Project area. The two gecko species identified are considered unlikely to be present within the Wellington Town Belt portion of the Project area. However, based on the presence of discrete areas of suitable habitat within the Project area, they have been included as a precautionary measure in the proposed lizard management measures.

Estimating the number of potential lizard species present in potentially impacted lizard habitat areas has not been undertaken due to the small scale of impact and the likelihood of the distribution of individual lizards being absent or uneven. Based on experience and professional judgement it is likely that fewer than 20 geckos and 100 skinks will be salvaged from these identified lizard habitat areas.

Any lizards within the lizard habitat areas have the potential to be affected by the Project works (without mitigation) for the reasons described above.

Table 1: Native lizard species recorded within 5km of the Project area (DoC Herpetofauna Atlas, updated August 2024)

Common name	Species name	Threat Status – Regional (Crisp et al., 2023)	Threat Status – National (Hitchmough et al., 2025)	Ecological value (Roper-Lindsay et al. 2018)	Presence likelihood within Project area
Barking gecko /moko kākāriki	<i>Naultinus punctatus</i>	Regionally Vulnerable	At Risk – Declining	Very high	Unlikely
Ngahere gecko	<i>Mokopirirakau</i> “southern North Island”	At Risk – Declining	At Risk – Declining	High	Unlikely
Moko pāpā/Raukawa gecko	<i>Woodworthia maculata</i>	Not Threatened	Not Threatened	Moderate	Likely
Copper skink	<i>Oligosoma aeneum</i>	At Risk - Declining	At Risk – Declining	High	Confirmed
Ornate skink	<i>Oligosoma ornatum</i>	At Risk – Declining	At Risk – Declining	High	Possible
Glossy brown skink	<i>Oligosoma zelandicum</i>	At Risk – Declining	At Risk – Declining	High	Possible
Northern grass skink	<i>Oligosoma polychroma</i>	Not Threatened	Not Threatened	Moderate	Highly Likely

5.2 Lizard habitat areas

Potential lizard habitat areas across the Project area have been identified and mapped following on-site investigations and survey, as detailed in the Terrestrial Ecology Assessment. Overall, the following terrestrial vegetation types are potential lizard habitat and are present within the Project area:

- Regenerating broadleaf forest: 1.08 ha
- Mixed indigenous-exotic forest and scrub: 2.43 ha
- Mixed low-stature vegetation: 1.31 ha
- Private gardens: 0.73 ha

Appendix A shows the location and extent of these areas, which have been identified as lizard habitat areas for the purposes of this application. A summary is provided below in Table 2.

Table 2: Overview of terrestrial vegetation, project area, and lizard habitat features.

Vegetation type	Project area	Lizard habitat features within the Project area	Lizard habitat value (in accordance with Section 5 of the Terrestrial Ecology Assessment and EclAG.
Regenerating broadleaf forest	Mount Victoria Tunnel	- Patches of dense rank grass, rubbish/inorganic debris, dense mats of tradescantia, discrete areas of dense leaf litter, and cracks/crevices across the root structures of large trees. - Few canopy gaps, forest margins, and clearings associated with walking tracks provide some basking opportunity. - Trees with coarse, flaky bark and/or crevices, including kānuka, māhoe, pōhutukawa, suitable for geckos. - Contiguous with wider Wellington Town Belt. - Receives active pest animal control.	Moderate
Mixed indigenous-exotic forest and scrub	Mount Victoria Tunnel + Eastern Connections (1.76 ha)	- Extensive mats of English ivy, tradescantia, rank grass, and occasional flax/harakeke. - This vegetation runs along Ruahine Street, with a high edge-to-area ratio, providing extensive basking habitat across the vegetation type. - Arboreal lizard habitat generally restricted to large pōhutukawa and small indigenous and exotic shrubs. - Contiguous with Wellington Town Belt in most places. - Receives active pest animal control.	Moderate
	Terrace Tunnel (0.66 ha)	- Indigenous groundcover in these areas is sparse, with exotic weeds, tradescantia, and human debris forming the bulk of the habitat. - Arboreal lizard habitat is absent, with mature trees (primarily karaka and sycamore) containing smooth bark and minimal microhabitat for arboreal geckos. - Isolated vegetation within an urban landscape. - No pest animal control observed during site surveys.	Low
Mixed low-stature vegetation	Mount Victoria Tunnel + Eastern Connections	- Located mainly beneath specimen trees along Ruahine Street - Consists of rank vegetation (grasses, weeds, and indigenous vegetation) which has not been regularly managed within parks/reserve/private spaces, providing suitable habitat for indigenous skinks. - Generally isolated vegetation within an urban landscape, with limited connectivity to private gardens. - No pest animal control observed.	Low
	Basin Reserve		Low

Vegetation type	Project area	Lizard habitat features within the Project area	Lizard habitat value (in accordance with Section 5 of the Terrestrial Ecology Assessment and EclAG.
	Terrace Tunnel	- Comprised of mostly isolated patches of native plantings associated with existing roading infrastructure. - While suitable habitat for indigenous skinks present, these locations are relatively small and very isolated, sitting between existing roads or public infrastructure. - Historic aerials suggest full, complete disturbance within the last 10 years. - No pest animal control observed.	
	Evans Bay outfall	- Rocky revetment structure and low growing, creeping indigenous vegetation. - Suspected Northern grass skink detection within this area.	
Private gardens	Mount Victoria Tunnel	- Potential habitat for indigenous skinks present in the form of garden vegetation and artificial retreats/refugia. - Likely to experience frequent disturbance and predation associated with garden maintenance and domestic animals. - Isolated in nature, however many remnant populations of indigenous skinks.	Low

6 IMPACTS ON THREATENED, DATA DEFICIENT, AND AT-RISK SPECIES

Clause 2(1)(e), Schedule 7 of the FTAA requires the application to outline impacts on threatened, data deficient and at-risk wildlife species.

Copper skinks, which have been confirmed in the Project area, are classified as At Risk – Declining (Hitchmough et al., 2025). The likely present northern grass skink is classified as Not Threatened. Barking gecko (At Risk – Declining), Ngahere gecko (At Risk – Declining), glossy brown skink (At Risk - Declining), ornate skink (At Risk – Declining) and raukawa gecko (Not Threatened) have been previously identified within 5km of the Project area. The glossy brown skink and ornate skink are considered as possibly present within the Project area, while the barking gecko, ngahere gecko, and raukawa gecko are considered unlikely to be present. In the unlikely event these species are discovered within the Project area, incidental discovery protocols detailed in Section 10 of the LMP will be implemented.

Potential adverse effects of the Project on lizards identified in this application (Table 7.1) include:

- Habitat loss due to vegetation clearance: up to 5.56 ha of low and moderate value habitat to indigenous lizards will be lost as a result of the Project
- Construction-related stress, injury, or mortality: vegetation and earthworks may risk injury and mortality to indigenous lizards
- Stress, injury or mortality during transport to relocation site
- Displacement into sub-optimal habitat; and
- Reduced survival and breeding success

At a local population scale there is no long-term effect on the local lizard population anticipated, based on the impacted potential lizard habitat being small in scale and fragmented.

Details on the potential adverse effects of the Project on these species are outlined in Section 3.3 of the LMP.

7 BEST-PRACTICE STANDARDS FOR LIZARD SALVAGE

Clause 2(1)(f), Schedule 7 of the FTAA requires the application to state how the methods proposed to be used will ensure that best practice standards are met.

The proposed lizard salvage and relocation methods (detailed in Section 4 and Section 5 of the LMP) are consistent with industry standard methodologies from DoC's Inventory and Monitoring Toolbox: Herpetofauna (Hare, 2012 a,b,c), sampling techniques for New Zealand lizards (Lettink and Hare, 2016) and in accordance with Principle 5⁴ of DoC's key principles for lizard salvage and transfer (DoC, 2019). The proposed methods are commonly used on land development and roading projects. The methodologies have been adapted for local site conditions and scaled to the low-moderate lizard habitat present.

The lizard salvage and relocation programme will be led by a suitably experienced Project Herpetologist with support from Project Ecologists. All personnel will be experienced in lizard handling, including salvage and relocation operations. A requirement for naming the personnel is proposed as a condition of the wildlife approval which is sought to be granted by the Panel under the FTAA to capture, handle and relocate protected native lizards.

⁴ Principle 5: "Lizard salvage, transfer and release must use the best available methodology", DoC (2019).

8 METHODS TO SAFELY CATCH, HOLD, AND RELOCATE LIZARDS

Clause 2(1)(g), Schedule 7 of the FTAA requires the application to describe the methods to be used to safely, efficiently, and humanely catch, hold, or kill the lizards and to identify the relevant animal ethics processes.

A salvage and relocation programme will be implemented within all lizard habitat areas to avoid or minimise injury or harm to the lizards identified in Table 7.1, as far as practicable. Lizard salvage and relocation will be implemented over two stages:

- Stage 1 – Pre-clearance works; and
- Stage 2 – Vegetation clearance works

Salvage activities to be undertaken during each stage are detailed in Section 4 and Section 5 of the LMP, including specific methods and scale of effort. A flexible approach using a toolbox of best-practice methods that are ethical and consistent with the Department of Conservation Inventory and Monitoring Toolbox is proposed to be used at the Project Herpetologist's discretion depending on lizard micro-habitats and quality of lizard habitat within the lizard habitat areas. All lizards salvaged will be relocated to a site/s within the relocation site that will be enhanced in accordance with the measures outlined in Section 7 of the LMP.

9 PROJECT LOCATION

Clause 2(1)(h), Schedule 7 of the FTAA requires the application to state the location in which the activity will be carried out.

A map of the lizard habitat areas and relocation site is provided in Appendix A.

10 AUTHORISATION FOR HOLDING AND RELOCATING LIZARDS

Clause 2(1)(i), Schedule 7 of the FTAA requires the application to state whether authorisation is sought to temporarily hold or relocate wildlife.

Authorisation is sought to temporarily hold and relocate lizards, in accordance with the methods described in Section 4 and Section 5 of the LMP.

11 ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL EFFECTS & EFFECTS MANAGEMENT

Clause 2(1)(j), Schedule 7 of the FTAA requires the application to list all actual and potential wildlife effects. In addition, clause 2(1)(k), Schedule 7 requires the application to state methods used to avoid and minimise effects where there are adverse effects and, where there are unmitigated adverse effects, any offsetting or compensation that is proposed.

The Terrestrial Ecology Assessment contains a full assessment of wildlife and ecological effects (adverse and positive) arising from the Project.

The proposed activity applicable to this wildlife approval application is to salvage and relocate lizards from lizard habitat areas identified within the Project area. There are several potential ecological and welfare

risks associated with lizard capture, salvage and relocation as a management tool for mitigation purposes. Potential risks include:

- Poor capture rates
- Accidental injury or death of lizards during salvage works and vegetation removal
- Stress, injury or death during transportation to relocation site(s)
- Disorientation of salvaged lizards after relocation, lack of shelter, increased movement and exposure
- Vulnerability to weather extremes, temperature fluctuations, reproductive impacts
- Competition for resources with resident lizards at relocation site/s
- Predation at relocation site/s; and
- Displacement, disturbance, injury or death of lizards unable to be salvaged

The proposed measures to minimise these risks follow best practice guidelines and are detailed in the LMP.

12 CONVICTIONS OR CHARGES UNDER WILDLIFE ACT 1953

For the purposes of Schedule 7, clause 2(1)(l) and 2(1)(m) FTAA, neither applicant, nor any person/entity involved with the application for the wildlife approval have been convicted or charged of any offence under the Wildlife Act.

13 PROOF OF CONSULTATION

Clause 2(1)(n), Schedule 7 of the FTAA requires the application to provide proof and details of all consultation.

Chapter 8 of Part B provides a comprehensive summary of the consultation that NZTA has carried out on the Project. This includes developing the Project in partnership with Mana Whenua and carrying out consultation with DoC and other relevant parties.

13.1 Consultation with Mana Whenua

NZTA is partnering with Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika and Ngāti Toa Rangatira in respect of the Project, with consultation ongoing in the context of this partnership. Feedback on the application for the lizard wildlife approval for the Project was provided through the Project iwi integration leads on behalf of Mana Whenua. The iwi integration leads met with the Project ecologist, Josh Markham, to discuss matters relevant to this application and the Terrestrial Ecology Assessment and LMP which support it. The iwi integration leads also reviewed a draft version of this application.

Feedback on behalf of Mana Whenua included:

- Confirmation that Mana Whenua approach this kaupapa through the role as Kaitiaki
- Kaitiakitanga is an active, intergenerational responsibility to care for and sustain the mauri of the natural world, including indigenous species and their habitats. It also carries an obligation to ensure continuity of this responsibility, including providing meaningful opportunities for uri (Mana Whenua descendants) and rangatahi (youth) to engage in kaitiaki practices over time
- Confirmation there were no substantive concerns with the proposed ecological approach
- Feedback focused on supporting implementation in a way that reflects both ecological best practice and kaitiaki responsibilities as follows:

- Implementation involvement: Mana Whenua involvement in finalising and confirming the penguin and lizard management plans prior to implementation, including practical input into on-the-ground details, and opportunities for uri and rangatahi participation
- Ongoing management and monitoring: ongoing involvement in wildlife management and monitoring over the life of the Project, including participation in adaptive management discussions. Mana Whenua are interested in ensuring structured pathways for rangatahi to engage in field-based monitoring and ecological practice alongside both scientific and mātauranga Māori perspectives
- Partnership approach: Mana Whenua sees this as an opportunity to embed an ongoing working partnership, with engagement that supports continuity, shared understanding, and intergenerational participation through uri participation and rangatahi pathways

In response, proposed condition 3 has been included in the proposed conditions for the approval (refer Section 17 of this application). This condition outlines the required kaitiaki involvement in matters relating to lizards, which will support the wider partnership that NZTA has adopted with Mana Whenua. While the LMP is being provided to the Panel to approve as part of the conditions of this wildlife approval, proposed condition 3 provides that the LMP must also be provided to Mana Whenua for comment prior to works commencing and that if this results in any changes to the LMP, the LMP will be provided to DoC for certification.

13.2 Consultation with the Department of Conservation

Pre-lodgement engagement has occurred through NZTA meeting with DoC representatives on 13 March 2026, then providing DoC with copies of the draft ecology assessment reports and draft LMP for comment. Detailed comments were received from DoC on the draft material and following this a further pre-lodgement meeting was held on 4 May 2026 to better understand the information expectations and substantive issues arising in the feedback provided by DoC and the other administering agencies with an interest in ecology matters. Representatives of WCC and GWRC also attended this meeting.

As a result of the pre-lodgement engagement, the following changes have been made to the supporting Terrestrial Ecology Assessment report and LMP covering the lizard related impacts and management that are relevant to this wildlife approval application:

- Updated the likelihood of Ruakawa gecko being present
- Provided for an approach using a soft-release cell at the relocation site to ascertain the correct size of the release site and type of habitat enhancements based on the number of lizards relocated
- Specified post release monitoring thresholds for 'Not Threatened or AT Risk' and 'Threatened - Regionally Vulnerable' lizard species which would trigger the requirement of a monitoring plan to be certified and implemented

The detailed comments from the pre-lodgement engagement with DoC and NZTA's responses to the matters raised are set out in Appendix B of this application.

14 ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Clause 2(1)(o), Schedule 7 of the FTAA requires the application to provide any additional written expert views and advice.

This application has been prepared by Josh Markham and Sam Mulcock, on behalf of NZTA. Mr Markham is a Principal Ecologist in the Ecology and Water Science team at Tonkin + Taylor, and Mr Mulcock is a Professional Ecologist⁵. Both have relevant experience and knowledge gained from other large-scale land development, roading and infrastructure projects.

⁵ The application has also had input from Mary O'Callahan of GHD Ltd as author for the overall Application package

Although this application has not been prepared for an Environment Court hearing, the authors confirm they each have read and agree to comply with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses in the Environment Court Practice Note 2023.

As part of the FTAA application for the Project associated with this wildlife approval application, Josh Markham also prepared the Terrestrial Ecology Assessment, which was peer reviewed by Jamie MacKay. This Assessment contains relevant detail and background information pertaining to the overall Project, detailed assessment of effects and management recommendations for all ecological values. That report, along with the LMP should be referred to alongside this application.

A proposed LMP is provided in Part F of the Application. Approval of the LMP by the Panel is sought as part of this application.

15 DECISION MAKING CONSIDERATIONS FOR A WILDLIFE APPROVAL UNDER THE FTAA

Clause 5 of Schedule 7 of the FTAA sets out the matters for consideration by the Panel in respect of an application for a wildlife approval. These matters are set out in Table 3 below with a description of how this application addresses each matter.

Table 3: Decision making considerations for a wildlife approval and NZTA response

FTAA Requirement (Schedule 7, cl 5)	Response
(a) The purpose of the FTAA; and	The Project is a listed project in the FTAA and will improve the efficiency and reliability on SH1 with the provision of duplicate tunnels at The Terrace and Mount Victoria, a new layout at the Basin Reserve and widening, intersection, and layout improvements along the remainder of the SH1 corridor. Gross benefits of \$3.4 billion in present value terms are expected to arise from the Project which represents a significant regional and national benefit. Other benefits include journey time savings, reduced congestion, traffic flow improvements, improved resilience of the transport network, faster and more reliable public transport journeys, and shorter travel times via public transport. On this basis, the Project, and the granting of the wildlife approval to implement the Project, is consistent with the purpose of the FTAA.
(b) The purpose of the Wildlife Act 1953 and the effects of the project on the protected wildlife that is to be covered by the approval; and	While there is no standalone purpose section in the Wildlife Act, it is understood that the Wildlife Act is intended to protect wildlife and to regulate activities that may impact wildlife. While NZTA has sought to design the Project to minimise the effects on wildlife, the location of the Project within an existing urban environment that is spatially constrained means these impacts cannot be completely avoided. As set out in Section 9 and Section 8 above, the measures that will be in place to manage these impacts are best practice and consistent with the purpose of the Wildlife Act.
(c) Information and requirements relating to the protected wildlife that is to be covered by the approval (including, as the case may be, in the New Zealand Threat Classification System or any relevant international conservation agreement)	The information and requirements are set out in the LMP and the Terrestrial Ecology Assessment.

16 DETAILS OF THE APPROVAL HOLDER AND ECOLOGIST

NZTA will be the holder of the wildlife approval. NZTA has extensive experience in design, construction and operation of the state highway network, including managing effects on wildlife. Compliance with the conditions of the approval will be managed through NZTA's compliance management system. The NZTA Environmental Planning Team and in-house ecology specialists will support the Project Manager in implementation of the approval.

A suitably qualified Project Herpetologist will be appointed at a later date.

17 CONDITIONS AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The proposed conditions for this wildlife approval are as follows:

1. The Approval shall expire 35 years after the date the Approval is granted
2. Unless otherwise approved by the Department of Conservation in writing, the Approval Holder shall carry out the authorised activity in accordance with the Lizard Management Plan (LMP) prepared by Tonkin + Taylor
3. At least 3 months prior to any vegetation removal, the Approval Holder must engage with Mana Whenua (Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, on behalf of Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika; and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Incorporated, on behalf of Ngāti Toa Rangatira) to define Mana Whenua roles (including rangatahi) for lizard monitoring related activities and broader kaitiakitanga requirements. The results of this engagement shall inform:
 - a. The inputs for condition 4, if any named roles arise through this engagement
 - b. Any updates to the approved LMP required to reflect kaitiaki requirements, in which case, condition 6 may apply
 - c. Cultural protocols/tikanga specific to works potentially impacting lizards, for example cultural inductions and blessings, which will be implemented by the Approval Holder outside of these conditions
4. The Approval Holder must supply details of the named SQE and other personnel to be authorised to carry out the activity. This must be supplied to the Director-General at least ten (10) working days prior to vegetation clearance activities commencing in the lizard habitat areas shown in Appendix A. Where no response is received within 10 working days, the named SQE shall be deemed to be approved
5. The authorised activity shall be carried out:
 - a. By the named SQE and other personnel authorised under condition 4
 - b. In accordance with the LMP
 - c. At a suitable time of year, when lizards are active, as advised by the named SQE; and
 - d. For catch / capture, within the lizard habitat areas, and for relocation, within the identified relocation site
6. The Approval Holder may apply to the Director-General for variations to this Approval in accordance with clause 7(2) of Schedule 7 of the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024
7. The Approval Holder must pay the Department of Conservation's standard charge-out rates for any staff time and mileage required to monitor compliance with this Approval and to investigate any alleged breaches of the terms and conditions of it.
8. The Approval Holder agrees to exercise the Approval at their own risk and releases, to the full extent permitted by law, the Director-General and the Director-General's employees and agents from all claims and demands of any kind and from all liability which may arise in respect of any

accident, damage, or injury occurring to any person or property arising from the Approval Holder's exercise of the Approval.

9. The Director General may revoke this Approval at any time in respect of the whole or any part (pursuant to clause 7(4) of Schedule 7 of the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024) if:
 - a. The Approval Holder breaches any of the conditions of this Approval; or
 - b. In the Director-General's opinion, the carrying out of the Approval has caused or is likely to cause any unforeseen or unacceptable effects on lizards
 - c. If the Director-General intends to revoke this Approval in whole or in part, the Director-General must give the Approval Holder such prior notice as is reasonable and necessary in the circumstances
10. The Approval Holder must comply with all statutes, bylaws, and regulations, and all notices, directions, and requisitions of the Director-General and any competent authority relating to the exercise of the Approval.
11. The Approval Holder must review the LMP and resubmit it to the Director-General for certification on or before the 10-year anniversary date of the Approval date. The objective of the review is to reassess habitat conditions and characteristics and update the LMP to reflect current species knowledge, best practice lizard management and mitigation techniques.
12. Capture and handling methods must involve only techniques that minimise the risk of infection or injury to the animal and must follow those described in the Herpetofauna inventory and monitoring toolbox <http://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/biodiversity-inventory-and-monitoring/herpetofauna/>.
13. The DoC Operations Manager for Wellington must be contacted immediately (wellingtoninfo@doc.govt.nz) for further advice if lizard species other than those authorised are located within the footprint of the development or within the release site.
14. If any lizards die during the approved activities of catch, transfer or liberate, the Approval Holder must:
 - a. Inform the Wellington DoC Operations Manager (wellingtoninfo@doc.govt.nz) within 48 hours, chill the body if it can be delivered within 72 hours, or freeze the body if delivery will take longer than 72 hours; and
 - b. Send the body to Massey University Wildlife Postmortem Service for necropsy or as otherwise advised by the Wellington DoC Operations Manager, along with details of the animal's history; and
 - c. Pay for any costs incurred in investigation of the death of any lizard; and
 - d. If required by the Wellington DoC Operations Manager, cease the Approved Activity for a period determined by the DoC Operations Manager
 - e. For the avoidance of doubt this condition applies to lizard deaths that are associated with salvage activities, and does not apply to incidental deaths that occur during construction activities. The purpose of this condition is to ensure the methodologies and practices for catch, transfer and liberate are functioning successfully and to require investigation in the event that deaths occur during salvage activities
15. If any lizards are found injured, the named SQE must be contacted to get advice on management of the lizard. Injured lizard(s) may be euthanised on recommendation of the named SQE or a veterinarian.
16. A report summarising lizard salvage and relocation activities must be prepared and submitted to DoC (wellingtoninfo@doc.govt.nz and permissionshamilton@doc.govt.nz) within 30 days from the completion date of the salvage. Specifically, this report is to include:
 - a. Results of lizard salvage and relocation work. Should native lizards be found, then the following will also be included in the report:
 - i. Photos illustrating lizard salvage methods utilised.
 - ii. Photos of lizards captured (including photos of the salvage and relocation areas),

- iii. A map showing the location of lizard upon capture and upon release
 - iv. The species and number of any lizards detected, captured, and released, and The results of all surveys and monitoring
- b. Descriptions of how lizard management activities outlined in the LMP were followed, including conditions detailed in the wildlife approval and associated resource consent conditions
 - c. An Amphibian and Reptile Distribution Scheme (ARDS) card detailing information relating to captured lizards (also to be provided to herpetofauna@doc.govt.nz); and,
 - d. A brief summary regarding the outcomes of the LMP, including any improvements/changes that should be implemented in future

Refer to the LMP for full detail on the proposed lizard management.

18 SUMMARY

In summary, the information provided in the preceding sections satisfies the information requirements for an application for a wildlife approval, in accordance with clause 2 of Schedule 7 of the FTAA and addresses the relevant criteria for the Panel's assessment of this application, in accordance with clause 5 of Schedule 7.

APPENDIX A MAPS SHOWING AREAS FOR APPROVAL RELATING TO THE WILDLIFE ACT 1953 (LIZARDS)

NOTES:

1. AERIAL IMAGERY SOURCED FROM LINZ DATA SERVICE, LICENSED BY LINZ FOR RE-USE UNDER THE CREATIVE COMMONS ATTRIBUTION 4.0 NEW ZEALAND LICENCE (CC BY 4.0), DATED 2025.
2. KERBLINES, PROPERTY BOUNDARIES AND BUILDING OUTLINES SOURCED FROM WCC, LICENSED BY WCC FOR RE-USE UNDER THE CREATIVE COMMONS ATTRIBUTION 4.0 NEW ZEALAND LICENCE (CC BY 4.0), DATED 2001.



300 mm
200
100
50
0 - 10 mm



REVISION	AMENDMENT	APPROVED	DATE
A	CONSENT DESIGN	ES	2026-07-09



SCALES			ORIGINAL SIZE
NOT TO SCALE			A1
DRAWN	DESIGNED	APPROVED	
S. THORNTON	S. THORNTON	E. SUTTON	
DRAWING VERIFIED	DESIGN VERIFIED	APPROVED DATE	
Q. O'SHAUGHNESSY	G. MURISON	2026-07-09	
CONSENT DESIGN			

PROJECT			
NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY			
WELLINGTON			
STATE HIGHWAY 1 WELLINGTON IMPROVEMENTS			
TITLE			
WILDLIFE APPROVAL - LIZARDS			
SHEET LAYOUT			
WSP PROJECT NO.	PROJ-ORG-VOL-LOC-TYPE	SHEET NO.	REVISION
5-C4434.01	SH1WI-DES-00-ECL-DRG	00110	A

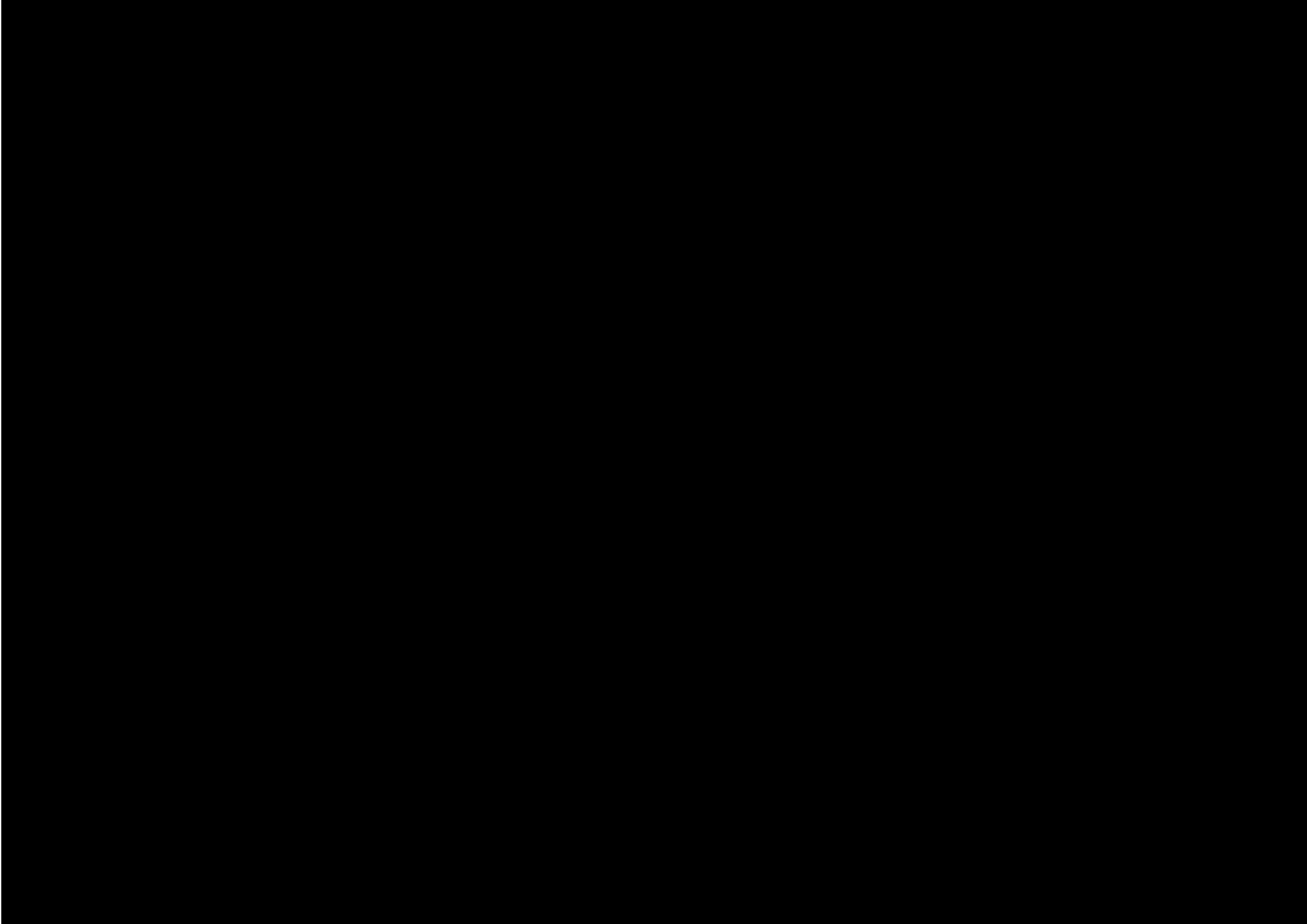
300 mm

200

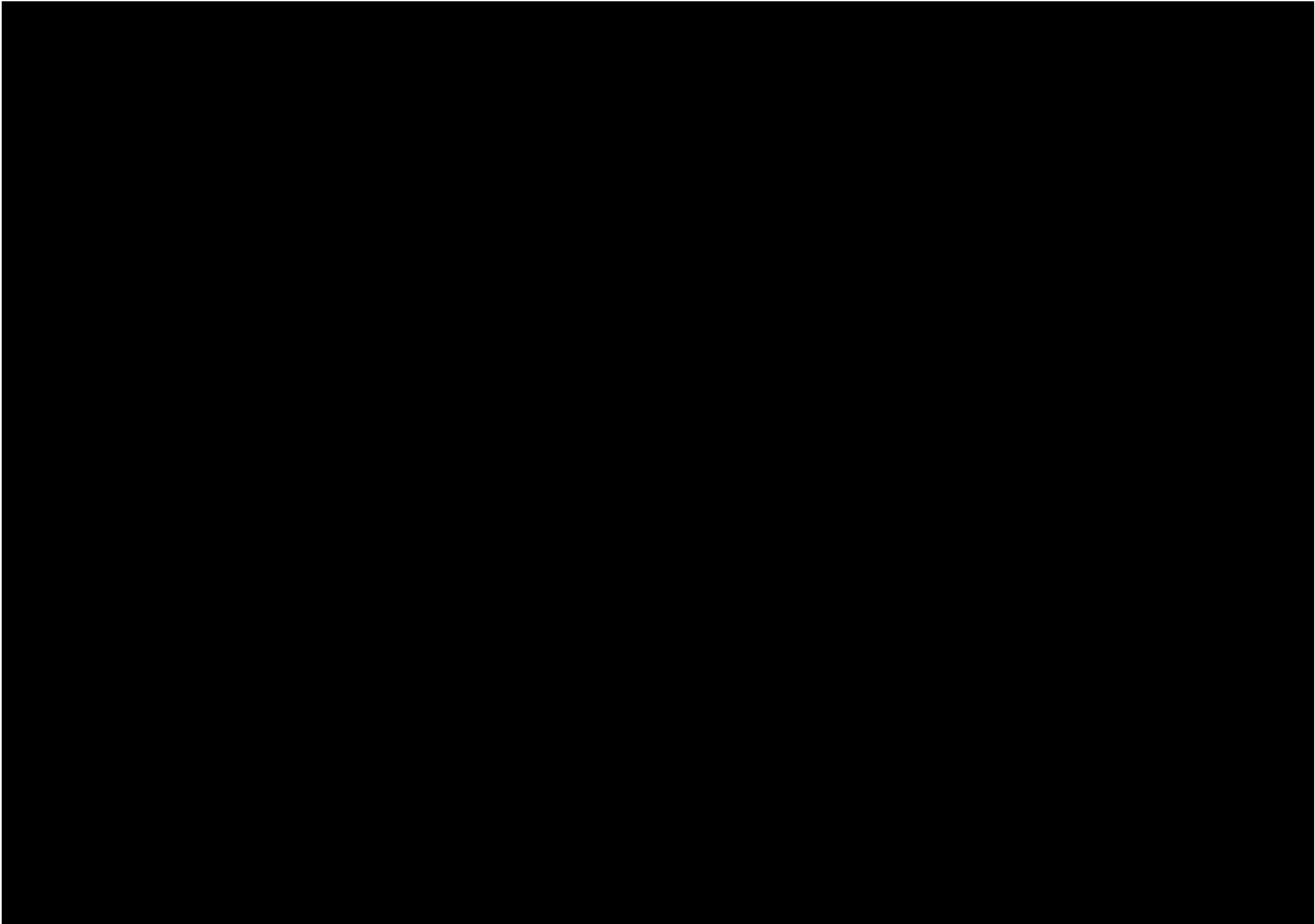
100

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APPENDIX B SECTION 29 PRE-LODGEMENT ENGAGEMENT WITH DOC

APPENDIX B - SECTION 29 PRE-LODGEEMENT ENGAGEMENT WITH DOC

Terrestrial Ecology Assessment

Summary of DoC comments

DoC raised concerns about vegetation classification and description. The regenerating broadleaf forest was correctly identified as high value with significant impact, but DoC considered other vegetation types were not well described as follows:

- Certain areas (like Terrace Tunnel) were low but DoC sought clearer descriptions of “mixed-low stature vegetation” and “mixed indigenous-exotic forest” across the Basin Reserve, Mt Victoria Tunnel, and Eastern Connections areas. DoC noted that confirmation of additional indigenous species beyond the trees found at Terrace Tunnel is necessary to validate “moderate” ecological value assessments.
- Regionally critical *Pseudopanax ferox* and regionally endangered *Brachyglottis greyi* were found within the Town Belt but recommended additional surveys for nationally/regionally threatened plants
- DoC also noted that some species have higher regional threat status than national listings as per GWRC 2020 guidance.
- DoC requested track logs, search times, and waypoints for threatened species surveys.
- They questioned whether replacement ratios applied to all threatened species, particularly *Pseudopanax ferox*.
- DoC raised concerns that threatened coastal species may not survive under mature kohekohe/tawa forest canopy and may require scrub community plantings.

DoC acknowledged that the report identifies the appropriate bird species, including several threatened species and supported the approach to avoid peak nesting season.

DoC considered the lizard assessment as sufficient and further supported the impact assessment.

DoC noted that the proposed 12ha restoration (offset) area appears to have full canopy cover and requested confirmation of existing species and preparation plans, noting potential damage to remnant native species during pine removal. DoC mentioned that there are known populations of at-risk *Tetragonia tetragonoides* nearby.

DoC emphasised Wellington's special threatened bird assemblage from Zealandia and requested detailed provision for detecting nesting threatened birds, including 48-hour pre-felling surveys, appropriate buffers, and tree climber provisions for cavity-nesting species. They also requested a management plan be prepared upfront for evaluation.

DoC accepted NZTA's conclusion that long-tailed bats and protected invertebrates are extremely unlikely to be present. However, they recommended that a 'stop' condition to be included if either are discovered incidentally.

Specialist/NZTA responses and actions

NZTA considers the vegetation types are adequately described in the Terrestrial Ecology Assessment and there should be no uncertainty regarding ecological value or significance of impact. However, NZTA acknowledged some areas where additional detail would be helpful. The report has been with more specific descriptions of vegetation types and plant species lists, particularly for “mixed-low stature vegetation” and “mixed indigenous-exotic forest” across the Basin Reserve, Mt Victoria, and Eastern Connections areas.

NZTA confirmed that requirements for additional surveys of nationally or regionally threatened/at-risk plants are included in proposed conditions. NZTA updated the survey methodology for this to include track logs, search times, and waypoints in reporting. The regional threat status information has also been updated, where required.

NZTA confirmed that replacement ratios apply to threatened species, clarifying that this changes the plant mix but not the overall offset area.

NZTA has also updated the report to include a summary of the process for managing replacement rates to address DoC's concerns about coastal threatened species.

Regarding the 12ha restoration area, NZTA clarified that this represents the area within which the offset can be contained, not a specific site. WCC confirmed that many pine areas within the proposed restoration zone do not have native understorey.

NZTA has updated the report to recommend an Avifauna Management Plan with specific nesting-season measures such as buffers, checks, and timing protocols. NZTA also included methodology for tree climber provisions to check cavities for species like ruru and kingfisher. However, they noted that the full Avifauna Management Plan will be provided prior to construction start rather than upfront for evaluation, including how peak nesting season will be avoided or managed, once construction details are known. NZTA confirmed they are not intending to apply for a Wildlife Authority for birds, as effects can be avoided through appropriate management measures.

NZTA updated the report to include a stop-work procedure for unexpected, threatened invertebrates or species. This would apply only to the affected work area, not the entire Project.

Lizard Management Plan

Summary of DoC comments

DoC considered the Lizard Management Plan (LMP) to be a straightforward, low risk application that addresses all key requirements.

DoC emphasised that monitoring is essential for determining salvage success, yet NZTA opted to redirect those funds toward pest animal management instead. DoC noted that the LMP also lacks contingencies for salvage failure – a specific DoC protocol requirement, which monitoring will help address.

DoC also disputed the assessment that the Raukawa gecko is “unlikely to be present”, citing numerous records in adjacent areas around Mt Victoria, though DoC acknowledged the species wasn't detected during baseline surveys and that adequate provisions have since been made.

DoC recommended increasing the salvage effort to include a minimum of five equipment inspections, given that at least one at risk lizard species is present at the site.

Specialist/NZTA responses and actions

NZTA has added triggers/thresholds and monitoring objectives into the LMP. A monitoring plan will be prepared at a later date. The LMP has been updated to allow for a soft-release cell methodology for the lizards. However, NZTA did note that even with monitoring, it is very difficult to determine failure and link it to salvage.

NZTA has updated the LMP to provide clarification on the offset calculations in the ecology report to address concerns about the Raukawa gecko. Updates also included a five-inspection minimum for equipment.

Freshwater and Wetland Assessment

Summary of DoC comments

DoC provided several comments in relation to the proposed offset wetland. However, since the time of receiving these comments, specialist assessments found that the proposed offset wetland at the Badminton Hall site is no longer viable. This is because groundwater-fed options would require extensive earthworks and pose geotechnical risks to the adjacent highway slope and pavement. A lined wetland was considered as an alternative, but hydrological assessments confirmed that surface water flows from the largely ephemeral upstream catchment are insufficient to sustain it. No alternative locations have been identified, so the Project now incorporates compensation for wetland impacts. Therefore, DoC's comments relating to the offset wetland and NZTA's associated responses are no longer relevant.

DoC's other feedback on this report focused on the importance of protecting fish habitat connectivity within the piped stream networks. DoC emphasised that even though the Project has minimal direct interaction with non-piped streams, the pipe networks serve as valuable corridor habitat for at risk native fish species (such as longfin eels and kōaro). DoC requested a simple process be outlined to ensure fish access isn't

disrupted during or after works, recommending actions such as identifying check points, informing contractors, and scheduling inspections.

DoC raised concerns about potential undervaluation of the affected streams as the current assessment only considers fish diversity and abundance but omits species rarity which is an important factor due to the presence of at-risk species. DoC noted that this omission may have resulted in streams being undervalued, and that species rarity was included in wetland valuations but not for streams which is inconsistent.

Specialist/NZTA responses and actions

In response to concerns about protecting fish passage in piped stream networks, NZTA updated the report to more clearly describe freshwater species found in the piped area, with particular emphasis on at risk fauna.

Regarding the potential undervaluation of streams due to the omissions of species rarity from the assessment criteria, NZTA acknowledged that while fish diversity and abundance were considered, species rarity was not explicitly included and has since been added into the report. However, NZTA noted that this inclusion has not changed the overall recommendations or outcomes of the assessment.

In relation to the requested “simple process” to manage fish passage, proposed RMA conditions relating to erosion and sediment control performance are included, which require response procedures and contingency measures if limits for suspended sediment and pH are not met.