

19/06/2026

Expert Consenting Panel
Environmental Protection Authority
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New Zealand

Dear Expert Consenting Panel

Agreed joint position on strategic principles and FTAA conditions alignment

- Northwest Rapid Transit

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and Auckland Council confirm that senior representatives from both organisations have met to consider matters arising from Council's comments on the Northwest Rapid Transit application under the Fast-track Approvals Act (FTAA).

Both organisations reaffirm their strong strategic support for the project and its role in delivering critical transport outcomes to support growth in Auckland's northwest. We confirm that the project remains a shared strategic priority, and our joint view is that the statutory approval outcomes should enable its efficient delivery.

We acknowledge that this is a multi-decade project and that both parties are trying to balance the level of information and requirements at this point with the inevitability of variation throughout the life of the project.

NZTA and Auckland Council have therefore aligned on a pathway forward, to co-operatively and in good faith address matters raised in Council's comments. Our goal is to undertake best endeavours to reach and record an agreed position in relation to the scope and content of conditions so they are fit-for-purpose, aligned with the intent of the FTAA and represent value for money outcomes. To that end, we have agreed to undertake a facilitated process together without delay.

Auckland Council strategic support for the project

Auckland Council reaffirms its strong and consistent strategic support for the Northwest Rapid Transit project, recognising the critical role the project has in:

- **Unlocking growth and urban development** in the northwest corridor, supporting planned intensification and future communities
- **Increasing transport capacity and resilience** along the SH16 corridor, reducing congestion and improving reliability for both public transport and general traffic
- **Driving economic productivity and growth**, by improving the efficiency of people and freight movement across the network

- **Enhancing access to jobs, education, and key destinations**, connecting northwest communities to major employment centres and opportunities
- **Providing better transport choices** and improved public transport access
- **Delivering a more integrated, future-ready transport system** that supports Auckland's long-term development

The project aligns with Council's long-term planning frameworks and transport priorities, including the need to deliver efficient, high-capacity public transport infrastructure at pace. The project is a priority project in the Auckland Deal between the Government and Auckland Council.

Agreed strategic principles

NZTA and Auckland Council senior management have agreed the following principles, which will guide and inform their work to align on conditions:

- **Ongoing collaboration:** Both parties commit to ongoing collaboration and working together to achieve integrated transport and land use outcomes. This will include regular project meetings and efficient escalation and resolution processes.
- **Proportionality:** Conditions will be proportionate and traceable to actual, evidenced effects of the project, aligned with the tests in the FTAA.
- **Role clarity:** NZTA and Council acknowledge each other's respective responsibilities. The conditions will not transfer onto NZTA responsibility to perform Council's functions or deliver Council assets, or vice versa. NZTA and Council can agree on the transfer of scope delivery responsibilities, outside the conditions process, as required.
- **Streamlined process:** Conditions will make use of established frameworks and project meetings and avoid additional approval/certification layers that function as a second consenting process, while enabling each party to undertake their statutory responsibilities.
- **No duplication:** Existing legislative/regulatory controls and compensation (for example, Public Works Act, Reserves Act) will not be duplicated in the conditions.
- **Enable delivery:** Conditions will be achievable, support efficient construction and minimise delays while enabling each party to undertake their statutory responsibilities.
- **Value for money:** Conditions will reflect cost discipline and avoid unnecessary or gold-plated requirements while enabling each party to undertake their statutory responsibilities.
- **Information sharing:** NZTA and Council will freely share project information with each other to support collaboration and aligned outcomes.

Conclusion and next steps

NZTA and Auckland Council consider that the agreed approach and strategic principles provide a clear and effective pathway and framework to address matters raised in the Council's comments and about which NZTA has raised concerns, ensuring that:

- The purpose and intent of the FTAA are upheld, and
- The project can be delivered in a manner that reflects its strategic importance, affordability, and timely delivery.

NZTA and Auckland Council commit to reporting an agreed position on the above matters to the Panel in the form of:

- A consolidated set of agreed designation and resource conditions, and any supporting commentary, and
- A schedule of any remaining matters not agreed, if applicable. In this situation, the differences are clearly laid out for the Panel to decide on their preferred solution.

We would like to thank the panel for the opportunity to provide an aligned position to achieve the project outcomes for the benefit of Aucklanders.

Kind regards | Ngā mihi

	
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