

15/05/2026

Mujahid Musa
Environmental Protection Authority
Via online portal

Dear Mujahid

Response to comments received on the State Highway 1 North Canterbury – Woodend Bypass Project (Belfast to Pegasus) Application [FTAA-2512-1157].

On 1 April 2026, the Expert Panel ('the **Panel**') issued an invitation for comments in relation to the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi ('**NZTA**') substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 ('**FTAA**') for all necessary approvals to construct, operate and maintain the State Highway 1 North Canterbury – Woodend Bypass Project (Belfast to Pegasus) ('the **Project**'). The comments response period for parties invited to comment closed on 4 May 2026.

NZTA welcomes the comments provided to the Panel in respect of the Project and thanks all persons and entities who have taken the time to comment. NZTA is pleased with the level of support expressed for the Project, which underscores the importance of the Project and the significant national and regional benefits it will deliver.

NZTA greatly appreciates the open and constructive engagement of mana whenua, landowners and all administering agencies throughout the application process. NZTA looks forward to continuing to engage with parties who have an interest in the Project.

NZTA's approach to responding to comments

NZTA has responded to comments received through the attached response tables, statements of evidence and condition tracker tables. The tables were prepared by NZTA with assistance from its legal counsel and technical experts.

1. Attachment 1: response to comment from invited parties.
2. Attachment 2: response to comments from the Department of Conservation ('**DOC**').
 - a. Attachment 2A: Statement of Evidence by Jamie MacKay (terrestrial ecology).
 - b. Attachment 2B: Statement of Evidence by Patrick Lees (Canterbury mudfish).
 - c. Attachment 2C: Statement of Evidence by Fiona McIntosh (wetland ecology).
3. Attachment 3: response to comments from Environment Canterbury ('**ECan**').
 - a. Attachment 3A: Statement of Evidence by David Delegarza (stormwater and flooding).

- b. Attachment 3B: Statement of Evidence by Paul Walker (contaminated land).
- c. Attachment 3C: Statement of Evidence by Jason Pene (air quality).
- 4. Attachment 4: response to comments from Waimakariri District Council ('WDC').
- 5. Attachment 5: response to comments from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga ('HNZPT').
- 6. Attachment 6: response to comments from Whitiōra.

NZTA's approach to showing changes to conditions

In response to the Panel's request in Minute 4, NZTA has also provided updated condition sets in word format. These identify where amendments suggested by the administering agencies are accepted or not accepted by NZTA, provide reasons where appropriate, and identify any additional amendments proposed by NZTA.

The tracked changes to conditions are structured as follows:

- 1. Attachment 7: Updated Proposed Alterations to Designation conditions.
- 2. Attachment 8: Updated Proposed Resource Consent conditions (including appended wetland map).
- 3. Attachment 9: Updated Wildlife Approval conditions.
- 4. Attachment 10: Updated Proposed Archaeological Authority conditions.
- 5. Attachment 11: Complex Freshwater Fisheries Approval conditions.

The approach taken by NZTA in the condition tracker tables varies between the condition sets to best assist the Panel in understanding the evolution of conditions and the extent of agreement and disagreement between NZTA and administering agencies. The differences also reflect the different formats and starting points used by DOC and HNZPT when providing their comments on the Wildlife Approvals, Complex Freshwater Fisheries Approvals ('CFFA') and Archaeological Authorities.

Notwithstanding these variations between the condition tracker tables, NZTA has applied a consistent approach across all tables to indicate where it has accepted or rejected changes suggested in section 51 and 53 comments, and to identify any further proposed amendments:

- Accepted changes are incorporated into the text and are not marked (i.e., they appear as regular text);
- Additional amendments or insertions from NZTA are shown in underline text; and
- Rejected changes are shown as strikethrough text.

For Attachment 7 & 8:

- Tracked changes are presented sequentially between each version of the conditions. Each column identifies amendments relative to the immediately preceding version (for example, the 'updated proposed condition' uses tracked changes to show differences from the 'WDC suggested condition').

- Where NZTA and ECan or WDC agree on the condition wording, the condition is not reproduced in the right hand column. The focus of the tracking tables is to assist the Panel in identifying areas where matters remain in dispute.

For Attachments 9 – 11:

- Attachment 9: NZTA has retained the format of conditions as lodged, and does not consider the Schedules as suggested in DOCs section 51 comments are required for Wildlife Approvals issued under the FTAA. Changes to the conditions are shown by reference to the conditions as lodged.
- Attachment 10: NZTA has used tracked changes on the draft archaeological authorities received from HNZPT (as part of HNZPTs section 53 comments) to identify areas of agreement and disagreement and to propose further amendments. Supporting rationale is provided in comment boxes.
- Attachment 11: NZTA does not consider specific conditions for CFFA necessary because the project will not prevent fish passage, and conditions proposed in Volume 2D will effectively manage effects on fish. However, for completeness, Attachment 11 identifies NZTA's position on the condition wording suggested by DOC, should the Panel consider CFFA conditions are necessary. Changes to the conditions are shown by reference to the conditions provided by DOC in its section 53 comments.

NZTA would be happy to provide 'clean' versions of the updated condition sets in due course, if that would assist the Panel.

Kind regards,

B Harrington

Bill Harrington

Principal Planner – NZ Transport Agency