

Report 03.260
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Committee Regional Land Transport
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Wairarapa Corridor Plan

1. Purpose

To provide for the committee a draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan.

2. Background

The committee has received a presentation on the possible economic futures for the Wairarapa at its November 2002 meeting. This identified the following as key transport network issues:

- SH2 south of SH58 which is being addressed as part of the Hutt Corridor Plan.
- Rimutaka and Kaitoke Hill Roads
- the Wairarapa rail link to the Hutt Valley and Wellington
- impacts of local roads of forestry
- SH2 bypasses of Wairarapa townships.

At the March 2003 meeting of the committee a report was presented that identified a series of options for improving linkages in and out of the Wairarapa and within Wairarapa.

3. Comment

In order to develop the transport network to meet anticipated needs a number of steps have been undertaken. These include:

- an analysis of anticipated demands – commuters, tourists, logs and timber products
- discussions with key infrastructure providers to identify network constraints – refer to **attachment 1**.
- discussions on a proposal with key stakeholders
- responses from key stakeholders.

The paper in **attachment 1** argues that the state highway is likely to be able to deal with all traffic demands except for the expected increase in log and timber

product flows. The rail line to the Wairarapa is capable of meeting the log and timber product demands provided that there is investment in a log transfer site and wagons.

Discussions have taken place with key stakeholders that have included CentrePort, forest owners, truck companies, Transit New Zealand, Tranz Rail and Transfund New Zealand. The proposal to provide a log transfer site in the Wairarapa and carry the logs by rail has generally been well supported provided the business case can be made to stack up.

Letters of support of this proposal by some of the stakeholders are shown in **attachment 2**.

A draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan is shown in **attachment 3**. It is proposed that a formal process of public consultation be undertaken with the intent of bringing back a preferred corridor plan to the August 2003 meeting of the committee.

4. Communications

There are no relevant communication matters.

5. Recommendation

That the draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan be taken through a process of public consultation in order to finalise the Corridor Plan.

Report prepared by:

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Attachment

1. Proposal to develop the transport network to meet user needs
2. Letters of support by stakeholders
3. Draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan