

THE THAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL HEARINGS COMMITTEE

IN THE MATTER OF the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER OF Proposed Thames-Coromandel District Plan

**SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE
FOR THE NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT AGENCY**

Dated:

4 February 2015

1. The New Zealand Transport Agency (The Transport Agency) thanks the Thames-Coromandel District Council's Proposed District Plan hearings committee for the opportunity to present evidence in support of their submission to the Thames-Coromandel Proposed District Plan (PDP).
2. The Transport Agency intends to present evidence in support of their submission which identified a number of areas of the PDP which the Transport Agency felt could be improved to better reflect the need to integrate land use and transport infrastructure and to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the District's transport network.
3. Evidence will be presented in respect of the following topics:

- The NZ Transport Agency's Role in Land Use Planning

A brief overview of the NZ Transport Agency and its functions, the Government Policy Statement and the NZ Transport Agency support of integrated planning;

- Re-zoning and Development

The Transport Agency has generally opposed re-zoning proposals where these have not been accompanied by a thorough and robust assessment of the effects of the proposed development on the transport network. The Transport Agency is not opposed to development or re-zoning in principle, however, it seeks to ensure this occurs only where supported by a sound evidence base.

- Integrated Transport Assessment (ITA) framework

The Transport Agency seeks the inclusion of an ITA framework in the PDP to provide certainty for future developers and the Transport Agency regarding when ITAs will be required and to ensure the integration of land use and transport infrastructure.

- Reverse Sensitivity

Sensitive land uses adjacent to State highways are frequently affected by road-traffic, particularly with respect to noise. This affects neighbours and in the case of new or altered buildings, it can also cause a reverse sensitivity effects on the NZ Transport Agency.

The Transport Agency has an established approach to manage reverse sensitivity

effects nationwide, following the same methods commonly applied for other infrastructure such as ports and airports. The Transport Agency seeks setbacks from State highways where effects are most severe. Over a wider 'effects area' the Transport Agency seeks controls for new and altered buildings containing sensitive activities to provide an appropriate internal noise environment.

- Vehicle Crossings onto State Highways

The Transport Agency seeks that new vehicle crossings on to state highways where the speed environment is 70km/h or higher is subject to a restricted discretionary activity status. This is to ensure that the potential risks to motorists of accidents occurring as a result of accessways not being designed to the appropriate standard are mitigated. The potential adverse effects associated with poorly designed accessways are not considered to be consistent with a permitted activity status. Providing for new activities with direct access onto state highways as a restricted discretionary activity provides Council with the ability to fully consider the area of non-compliance, impose conditions or refuse a consent (where necessary).

- Festivals and Events

The Transport Agency is responsible for the safe and efficient functioning of the state highway network and therefore seeks additional controls on festivals and events to ensure their operation does not compromise this. The requirement for a traffic management plan would address this concern.

- Designations

The Transport Agency seeks to retain its designations NZTA4 at Thornton Bay and Ngarimu Bay and NZTA5 at Kopu. No specific works are programmed at present to utilise these designations, however, the Transport Agency seeks to retain this option into the future.

4. Evidence will be presented from both planning and acoustics experts and a representative from the NZ Transport Agency Highways and Network Operations team will also be in attendance to answer any general questions that may arise.