

Puhoi to Wellsford

Road of national significance

Frequently asked questions

What is a road of national significance?

The government has identified seven roads of national significance critical for ensuring access to significant markets and areas of employment and economic growth. Improving these roads will help grow the national economy by lifting productivity in New Zealand's largest cities and surrounding regions. Making these key routes more efficient and safer will improve reliability of journey times, reduce severe congestion and improve key freight and tourism routes.

Where are the roads of national significance?

The roads of national significance are located around New Zealand's five largest population centres to reduce congestion and improve safety. Projects specific to these areas will be complemented by improvements to key arterial roads and urban public transport networks.

The seven key routes are:

- SH1 Puhoi to Wellsford.
- Completion of the Auckland Western Ring Route (SH20, 16, 18).
- SH1 Auckland Victoria Park bottleneck.
- SH1 Waikato Expressway.
- SH2 Tauranga Eastern Corridor.
- SH1 Wellington Northern Corridor (Levin to Wellington Airport).
- Christchurch motorway projects.

Why is the Puhoi to Wellsford corridor a road of national significance?

The Puhoi to Wellsford corridor has been identified as one of our most essential state highway routes to reduce congestion, improve safety and support economic growth in New Zealand

What benefits are anticipated from investment in the Puhoi to Wellsford road of national significance?

Construction of the corridor will provide a range of benefits from savings in travel times and reductions in vehicle operating costs, through to productivity gains resulting from the reduction in time and costs involved with transport.

This will help the economy to function more efficiently and help achieve economic growth and improved productivity. Regional benefits include:

- improved movement of freight and people between Auckland and Northland
- improved connectivity between key growth areas in the north Rodney area
- improved reliability of the transport network through a more robust and safer route between Auckland and Northland
- better route security for Northland residents.

Has the NZTA identified the Puhoi to Wellsford corridor route?

The project is at the beginning of the investigation phase. The potential route options are currently being investigated.

What is the timeframe for this project?

The Government has brought the timeframe for constructing the Puhoi to Wellsford corridor forward and investigation work has begun on establishing the route.

The NZTA is working towards completing the corridor within 10 years but will have a clearer picture of the timing once investigations are complete. For the next three years the project will be undertaking detailed investigation and design work to determine route options and obtain statutory consents.

What will happen to homeowners affected by the new road?

All those whose properties are fully or partly required to build the road will be fully consulted as the project develops. Where property must be purchased, owners will be fairly compensated.

Will there be opportunities for the community to provide feedback?

The project will still have to go through the investigation, design and consenting process before progressing to construction. The community will be fully consulted as the project is developed.

What are you doing about current traffic congestion?

The NZTA is currently working on road widening and intersection improvements through Warkworth to relieve pressure on the existing network.

How does the new road affect the current work at Warkworth?

The state highway improvements through Warkworth include a number of capacity improvements at key intersections between Hudson Road in the north and McKinney Road in the south.

As part of the improvements, the Rodney District Council will also be building a Western Collector Route to the west of Warkworth. Together with the Puhoi to Wellsford works, the Western Collector Route will provide access to existing and future development at Warkworth and the eastern beaches.

Where will the interchanges/access points be on the new route?

The purpose of the project is to aid economic development in the region by minimising the journey time between Auckland and Northland. For this reason the number of intersections along the route will be minimised.

The project is currently at the investigation phase and the number of access points has not been identified.

Will you be constructing sections of the route faster, such as the Warkworth bypass?

The investigation phase of the project will determine construction timelines, and opportunities to stage construction phases will be explored.