**SH1 Pūhoi to Wellsford**

## E-newsletter february 2014

## 1. Pūhoi to Warkworth submissions

The submissions period for Pūhoi to Warkworth closed on 13 December 2013. In total, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) received 184 submissions.

115 submitters support the proposal either in full or in part, 46 submitters oppose the proposal either in full or in part, 12 submitters are neutral and 11 submiters have a range of views.

You can read submissions online at [http://www.epa.govt.nz/Resource-management/Pūhoi/Submissions\_received/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.epa.govt.nz/Resource-management/P%C5%ABhoi/Submissions_received/Pages/default.aspx).

The EPA has also produced a Summary of Submissions Report that provides a breakdown of the issues raised in the submissions. You can read this online at [http://www.epa.govt.nz/Resource-management/Pūhoi/information-for-submitters/SoS/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.epa.govt.nz/Resource-management/P%C5%ABhoi/information-for-submitters/SoS/Pages/default.aspx).

## 2. What happens next?

Both the applicant (the NZ Transport Agency) and submitters who wish to be heard will provide the Board with written evidence to consider in advance of the hearing.

The Transport Agency evidence in chief has been lodged, together with an updated set of proposed conditions, and these are available on the website at <http://www.epa.govt.nz/resource-management/puhoi/Pages/default.aspx>.

In April, the NZ Transport Agency and submitters who wish to be heard will present their case to the members of the Board. The Board has identified the Northridge Country Lodge in Silverdale as the most suitable venue for the hearing.
After the Board has heard from all parties, they will deliberate and make a decision on the designation and resource consents for the Pūhoi to Warkworth section.

The EPA has provided submitters’ with an indicative timeline for this process at [http://www.epa.govt.nz/Resource-management/Pūhoi/information-for-submitters/timeline/Pages/Timeline.aspx](http://www.epa.govt.nz/Resource-management/P%C5%ABhoi/information-for-submitters/timeline/Pages/Timeline.aspx). Please note this timeline is subject to change as it is set by the Board.

## 3. Board of Inquiry members announced

On 20 December 2013 the members of the independent Board of Inquiry were announced by the Minister of Conservation and Minister for the Environment.

* Hon John Priestley CNZM, QC (Chair)
* Alan Withy
* David Chandler
* Bronwyn Hunt
* Michael Parsonson

Further information about the Board is available on the EPA’s website: [http://www.epa.govt.nz/Resource-management/Pūhoi/About\_the\_Board](http://www.epa.govt.nz/Resource-management/P%C5%ABhoi/About_the_Board).

## 4. SH1 Wayby Valley Road intersection

North of the Pūhoi to Warkworth RoNS project on State Highway 1, work has started to improve safety at the intersection of Wayby Valley Road and SH1.

Located 5km south of Wellsford, the intersection will have new right-turn bays installed for drivers turning in and out of Wayby Valley Road and Wayby Station Road. This will improve safety by separating turning traffic from those travelling straight through. Better road geometry will improve sight distances for drivers making turning manoeuvres.

For more information on this project please visit <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/network/projects/project.html?ID=233>.

## 5: SH1 Hudson Road intersection

A $3.5M upgrade to the intersection of Hudson Road and SH1 was completed six weeks early in November last year.

The upgrade provides safer and easier access to the Warkworth Showgrounds with the installation of new traffic signals, widening and left turn slip lanes.

“We’re rapt that this job has been finished six weeks early so that drivers can benefit from these safety improvements sooner,” says the Transport Agency’s Highway Manager for Auckland and Northland, Tommy Parker.

Mr Parker says the new traffic lights now operating at the intersection will provide safer access to and from the showgrounds as well as to the western side of Warkworth, and he urged drivers on SH1 to be aware that the new lights are now operating.

“We’ve worked with Auckland Council to ensure the timing and coordination of the upgrade so that it compliments their showground development and consent conditions.”

Mr Parker also congratulated the Wellsford-based Wharehine Group for a successful project and for the way company staff had worked with the community and minimised any disruption to state highway and local traffic.
“Throughout the project, Wharehine received great feedback from the community for keeping the site tidy and for keeping people informed of what was happening. On top of this they have completed the contract early and to a very high standard,” Mr Parker says.

The upgrade is part of the wider SH1/Warkworth improvements programme, and the Hudson Road/ SH1 project follows on from the completion earlier of the Woodcock and Whitaker Roads/SH1 intersection improvements.