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When Auckland Transport or a Regional Transport Committee adopt an RLTP, they must be satisfied it’s consistent with the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport. This is a new requirement under the 2013 Land Transport Management Act (LTMA) Amendment.

RLTPs should be outcome focused, optimised across the whole-of-transport-system, demonstrate a one-network approach including activities or journeys that have inter-regional significance, show value for money, and have a clear strategic case for planning and investment.

We’re looking for RLTPs to be developed by local and regional partners working together to identify the key priorities and outcomes that they want from a collaborative planning process.

This work will already be underway and over the next few months, it’s time to start testing and confirming key outcomes and priorities through applying the Business Case Approach (BCA), supported by evidence.

**Background**

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**Factors to consider when developing RLTPs**

**Form and content**

RLTPs are six-year documents that provide strategic context and direction for each regional programme. Key considerations include:

- developing a significance policy to prioritise significant activities
- developing the front end strategic case using BCA principles
- having a programme of activities, not just projects, with clear linkages between all activities and agreed outcomes, eg relationship between investing in different modes and activities funded outside the NLT
- setting out land transport objectives, policies and measures for at least 10 financial years
- considering the infrastructure implications and/or public transport service improvements that are needed to support growth areas
- considering the feasibility and affordability of alternative regional land transport objectives
- identifying performance measures that will be used to monitor activities.
We’re continuing to build capability to use evidence and geospatial technology to better understand key investment focus areas. You can use the recently published geospatial maps to help with your planning – these show, at a high level, the opportunities and risks by outcome area across the country. The maps are a work in progress, and provide an update of the National Transport Planning Overview (NTPO) that was part of the November signals pack.

**APPLYING THE BUSINESS CASE APPROACH**

The BCA is one of the new processes we’re implementing to improve how we plan and invest for transport.

All RLTPs need to apply the principles of the BCA in a fit for purpose way relative to the size and complexity of the programme. This will help to demonstrate a clear strategic case for investment; and make sure that through testing and optimisation, programmes identify optimal activities to invest in.

We’re committed to using this approach to support stakeholders working together to focus on identifying the problem, consequences and benefits associated with the problem, and the wider strategic context, before deciding what interventions may be required.

A business case is built progressively with decision points along the way to determine whether the investment is worthwhile in relation to the outcomes sought.

Using this approach to collaborate with our partners offers the best opportunity to make the right investments, at the right time, in the right way and at the right price. The focus is on defining issues with the biggest consequences in a region and better understanding their relative priority, which is a change from the approach of regional land transport strategies.

Due to long project lead times, a transitional approach will be taken for this NLTP, focusing on strategic cases and programme business cases.

We encourage you to:

- apply the principles of the BCA to test and confirm priorities and outcomes – using the strategic case process will help to define the main problems with the biggest consequences in the region and have a view of their relative priority
- collaborate with the Transport Agency throughout the process, particularly at the strategic and programme business case stages.

For the 2015-18 NLTP, anything new at the strategic level must follow the BCA.

The diagram that follows provides a high level summary of how the BCA can be applied to RLTPs.

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Visit our KnowledgeBase (https://www.pikb.co.nz/) for information about the way we work, including our planning and investment principles; and for detailed guidance on developing RLTPs and applying the business case approach.

You’ll need to register to get notifications of updates.