Southern end – The details of what we are proposing

At the southern end we are working closely with the Transmission Gully project team for the MacKays to Peka Peka Expressway.

Description
- North of MacKays Crossing, the existing state highway would be upgraded to expressway standards, to the point where it connects to the new expressway.
- Northbound travellers could leave the expressway at Poplar Avenue and exit onto the former state highway (Main Road), while southbound travellers on Main Road or from Raumati Road could join the expressway.

Considerations
- Requires all or part of 28 properties.
- Avoids social and environmental impacts for two schools along current designated route.
- Retains an ecological area by Poplar Avenue.
- Minor intrusion into Queen Elizabeth Park.
- Recognises cultural interests of local iwi.
- Retains Poplar Avenue connection to Main Road.

Alternative routes beginning south of Poplar Avenue were investigated but considered less favourable due to:
- significant impact on Queen Elizabeth Park
- impacts on two schools (e.g. noise and air quality)
- effects on an identified ecological area
- construction challenges of building over deep peat
- iwi and archaeological interests.