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# Hamilton Southern Links

Community Liaison Group Meeting, November 2017





# Today's Agenda

- Introductions
- Project background
- Project programming
- Achievements to date
- Property
- Update on ecological surveys
- What are we planning next
- Questions

# Introductions

Please sign the attendance register

- NZ Transport Agency
  - Barry Dowsett
  - Simon Brandon
  - Adrian Bathgate
- Hamilton City Council (*as Project Partner*) Nathanael Savage
- Consultants
  - Alastair Black (Gray Matter Ltd)
  - Lyndsey Smith (AECOM)
  - Grant Eccles (AECOM)



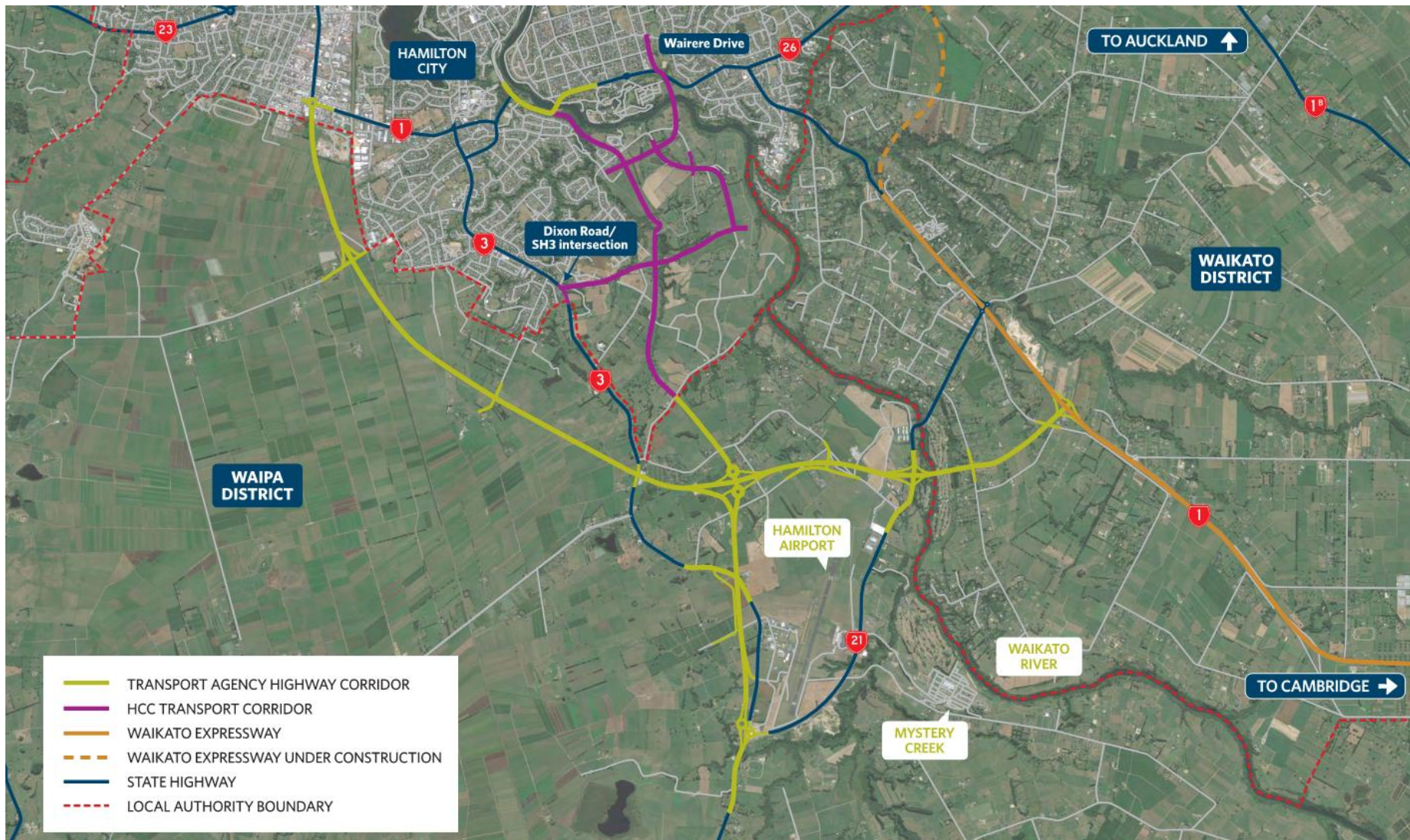


# Project Background

## Purpose and Benefits

- Joint HCC and NZ Transport Agency Project
- Develop 32km of state highway and urban arterials to support planned residential growth
- Key benefits:
  - Reduce congestion, improve safety on SH1 and SH3 in the Hillcrest and Melville suburbs of Hamilton
  - Improve freight flows
  - Be a key part of the city's urban arterial network integrated into the HCC Access Hamilton Strategy

# Southern Links Network



# Project programming

- Both partners are programming funding together, but have different drivers and constraints.
- Hamilton City Council is driven by City growth and need for Housing in Peacocke's growth cell, but funding is very constrained. HCC is currently considering its programming as part of the 10 Year Plan review process.
- NZ Transport Agency funding comes from the National Land Transport Fund – derived primarily from fuel taxes, road user charges and limits are set by Government in a Policy Statement. This is being developed currently and will be published as a draft in late December 2017.
- The Transport Agency has published a draft 'State Highway Investment Proposal' and this includes design in 2018 and potentially construction starting in 2021 for Southern Links – this is being reviewed by the Waikato Regional Transport Committee for the 2018 Regional Land Transport Plan – to be consulted on in early next year.

# Achievements to date

- Appointed Communications, Consultation and Property Liaison Managers
- Provided Councils with;
  - Pre-Construction, Communications & Consultation Plan
  - Property Acquisition and Management Engagement Practice
- Completed initial ecological monitoring and surveys
  - Vegetation and habitat surveys
  - In-stream aquatic surveys
  - Bat monitoring
- Initial stakeholder engagement, e.g. DoC and Tangata Whenua
- Property purchase ongoing, as required
- Worked collaboratively with Hamilton CC on Peacocke's Housing Infrastructure Funding bid – utilises Southern Links designations.

# Property

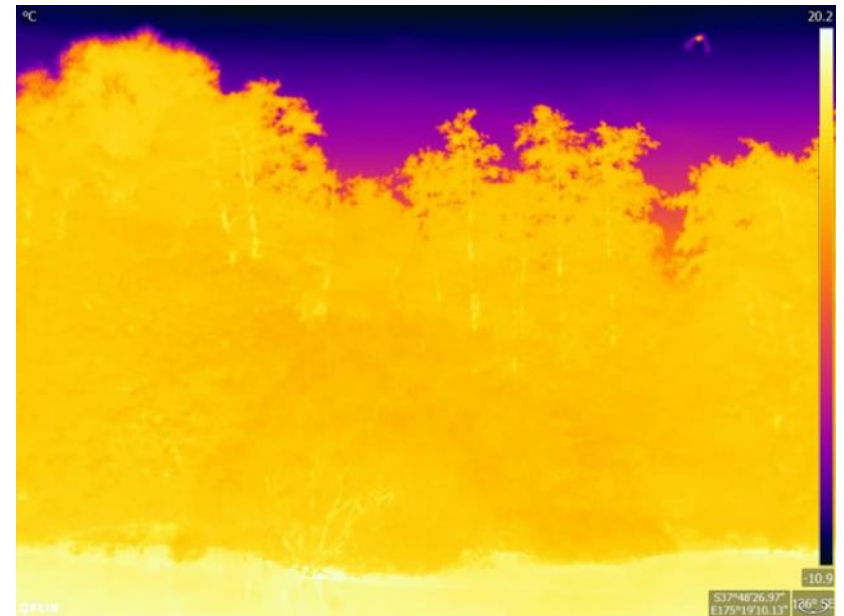
- NZTA and HCC acquiring property as required.
- The Designation conditions require that “*we provide clarity for directly affected landowners on how they can engage with the NZ Transport Agency (as Requiring Authority) on matters regarding property acquisition and management*”.
- This is documented in the ‘Property Acquisition and Management Engagement Practice’ (PAMEP) – *available on the project website*
- Over the last 3 years, the NZ Transport Agency has acquired 37 properties (out of 85 required) – about 44%. By the end of the current 2017/18 financial year, we expect this to be close to 50%.



# 2017 Ecological Surveys

## Focussed within HCC

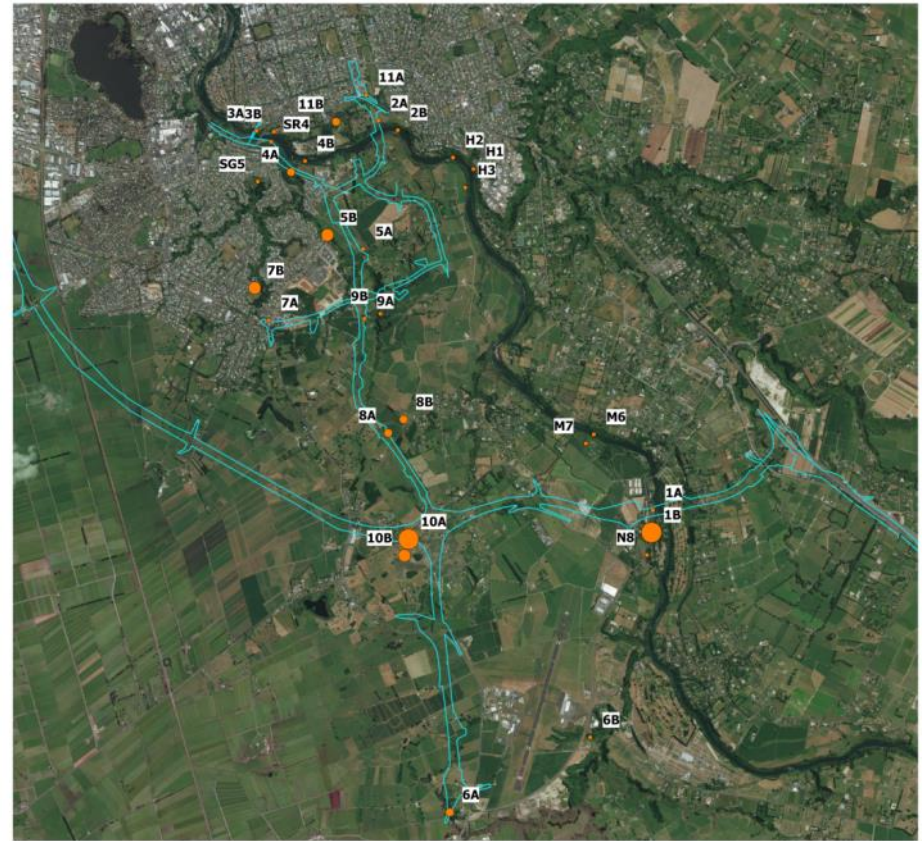
- Bat monitoring
  - Acoustic monitoring – detect bat activity
  - Thermal imaging of bats
    - Determine behaviour
    - Detect crossing height
- Aquatic monitoring
  - Fish surveys
  - Water quality assessment
- Vegetation and habitat surveys



# 2017 Ecological Survey Results

## Southern Links

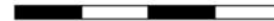
- Bats were recorded at all monitoring sites.
- Bat activity was variable at each of the sites.
- Bats were recorded travelling above tree canopy height and within the Waikato River gully by the thermal imaging cameras.
- Data from the aquatic surveys is still being processed.



### Southern Links

Acoustic Monitoring of Long-tailed Bats 2017

0 1 2 3 4 km



### Legend

Average (Mean) Number of Bat Passes per night

- 0 - 10
- 10 - 30
- 30 - 40
- 40 - 60
- 60 - 70

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# Planned Activities

## Focus on ecology and archaeology

- In 2017/18 the focus is on:
  - Bat monitoring
  - Survey of birds (avifauna)
  - Survey of reptiles
- On-going stakeholder engagement
- Identify potential sites for ecological enhancement and restoration
- Develop Ecological Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP)



Source: Department of Conservation

# Further Information

- Newsletters with updates of key activity
- Annual community liaison group meetings
- [www.nzta.govt.nz/southern-links](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/southern-links)
- Communications, Consultation and Property Liaison Manager
  - NZTA: Simon Brandon, [southernlinks@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:southernlinks@nzta.govt.nz)

## Thank you

Any questions?

