

AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2010
TRANSPORT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Attachment 3



Auckland Regional Council

21 Pitt Street Auckland New Zealand Private Bag 92 012 Auckland
Telephone 09 366 2000 Facsimile 09 366 2115 www.arc.govt.nz

COUNCILLORS OFFICE

18 August 2010

**COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

Honourable Steven Joyce
Minister of Transport
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

File Ref: L064 - 04

Dear Minister

SH1 Puhoi - Wellsford

You will be aware that the New Zealand Transport Agency is in the process of completing consultation on a number of matters relating to the Puhoi – Wellsford road of national significance. One of the issues being consulted on is an NZTA proposition that the upgrade should take the form of a new road on a completely new alignment (an "off line" route). The ARC Transport and Urban Development Committee spent some time at its August meeting debating the issues raised by NZTA. After completing the ARC submission, which I enclose for your information, the committee also resolved that I write to you expressing our concern at the off line route proposal.

The ARC agrees that there are safety and reliability issues with SH1 between Puhoi and Wellsford and we also agree that there is a need to improve links between the Auckland region and the Northland region. We are not convinced however that a new off line road is the best option, or that it should be the only option to be explored. We consider an off line alignment will require much higher capital investment than upgrading the existing route, and note that provision of \$2.3 billion is included in the NLTP. That is a very large amount of capital and a significant proportion of national transport funding. We are concerned that a funding commitment of this size is likely to delay other priority projects, both in Auckland and no doubt in the rest of New Zealand. We believe it is just as important to make sure the solution in this case is the most cost effective available, as it is for other transport projects.

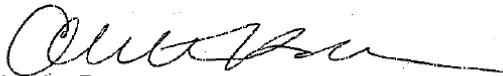
The ARC is also concerned that a new completely off line road will take more than 10 years to address all the most critical trouble spots. We note a new off line road would not be completed until 2022. That seems to us to be much too long to wait to address known safety issues - at current accident rates up to 45 lives could be lost before the road is completed, lives that could well be saved by more timely on-line safety improvements.

IS Ref. n:\councillors\rose\submissions\2010\tr minister of transport 180810.docx

AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2010
TRANSPORT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The ARC considers that the investigation into improvements to the route should focus on cost effective, staged improvements to the existing road with an emphasis on improving safety and reliability. Staged improvements would allow the most critical issues to be addressed first, and would allow the funding for upgrading the whole route to be spread over a longer period, and consequently would have less impact on funding of other projects. The ARC requests that efforts be focused on progressing a Warkworth bypass and safety upgrades to the most dangerous sections of State Highway 1, and that current investigations into a full off-line motorway between Puhoi and Wellsford be placed on hold.

Yours faithfully



Christine Rose
Chair, Transport and Urban Development Committee
Auckland Regional Council

Encl