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Dear Sir/Madam

### Submission on the draft Regional Land Transport Plan

This submission was formally endorsed by the Waikato Regional Transport Committee under delegated authority of the chair on 11 March 2024.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft Taranaki Regional Land Transport Plan. As a neighbouring region and key transport partner in the State Highway 3 Working Group, we acknowledge the strategic importance of SH3 to Taranaki, outlined in section 2.5 "Strategic corridors and cross-boundary matters" of your draft RLTP:

*"The priority inter-regional issue for the Taranaki region is the future route efficiency, safety and reliability of State Highway 3 travelling north over Mt Messenger, through the Awakino Gorge to Te Kuiti, Hamilton and beyond."*

Through on-going collaboration between our regions, we have seen substantial resilience outcomes advanced on this corridor through the SH3 Mt Messenger to Awakino Programme of transport activities.

The priority to continue to improve network resilience, route reliability and safety is embedded in both the draft Taranaki and draft Waikato RLTPs, and there is strong inter-regional policy alignment between our two draft RLTPs. This reflects the close working relationship we have in ensuring our mutually strategic corridor outcomes are aligned, supported and implemented. We **commend** the Taranaki Regional Transport Committee on developing a robust document that clearly articulates this priority.

In this context, we **specifically support the following policies and measures** in your draft RLTP, outlined in section 3.4 of your Plan:

- Objective 2 – Enabling policies and measures:
  - Policy G1: *Removal of constraints to growth in freight, tourism and people movement, particularly on inter-regional corridors.*
  - Policy G2: *Focus on effective and efficient strategic road and rail corridors, particularly between inter-regional ports.*
  - Policy G3: *Ensure those roads in the region serving tourism and the productive sector are fit for purpose.*
  - Policy G4: *Protect and promote the existing rail corridors.*
  - Associated measures for Objective 2:
    - i. *Waka Kotahi maintaining inter-regional corridors to a level of service that will ensure continued economic development opportunities*

- ii. *RTC, with KiwiRail, ensuring current and future reliability of the rail network to accommodate growth in freight movements, and actively encourage greater utilisation of the rail corridor*
  - iii. *RTC advocating for improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of existing networks for all transport modes (including rail, air and sea).*
- Objective 3 – Safe and healthy people policies:
  - Policy S1: *Promote infrastructure and safety improvements on strategic corridors.*
- Objective 5 – Resilient and responsive policies:
  - Policy R1: *Improve the resilience of transport infrastructure, particularly to geological risks and the impacts of climate change.*
  - Policy R2: *Protect routes with lifeline functions.*

These policies and measures are complementary to policies and measures in our strategic policy framework in section 3 of our draft Waikato RLTP.

We **support** the identification of SH3 Mount Messenger Bypass as an **activity of inter-regional significance** in section 5.4 of your draft RLTP. The State Highway 3 construction of the Mount Messenger and Awakino Gorge improvement projects, and the more general SH3 inter-regional transport activities are explicitly recognised and prioritised as a key inter-regionally significant activities in our draft RLTP in recognition of the economic and lifeline importance to the Taranaki region and the King Country.

We **support** the inclusion of the State Highway 3 Working Group, along with a description of its role, in Appendix III: Plan Partners and their roles.

It is noted that the SH3 North corridor improvements project from Waitara through to Hamilton has been identified as an activity for future consideration in Appendix IV: Activities on the Horizon of your draft RLTP. This recognises that there is room for further improvement on this inter-regionally strategic route. The Waikato Regional Transport Committee will welcome on-going discussion through the SH3 Working Group to continue to advance corridor improvements on this route.

Collectively, the priority placed on SH3 through our RLTPs will ensure this strategic inter-regional corridor is protected for its access, freight, tourism and life-line functions, and its ongoing resilience issues continued to be addressed.

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to submit on your draft RLTP and we wish you well with the final stage of your RLTP development process.

Please note, we **do not** wish to be heard in respect of this submission.

Should you have any queries regarding the content of this submission please contact Julie Hansen, Senior Policy Advisor Transport and Infrastructure, Transport Policy and Programmes directly on (07) 858 4631 or by email [Julie.Hansen@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:Julie.Hansen@waikatoregion.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Downard', with a small dot at the end.

Councillor Mich'eal Downard  
Chair of Waikato Regional Transport Committee

HE TAIAO MAURIORA	HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
HE ŌHANGA PAKARI	STRONG ECONOMY
HE HAPORI HIHIRI	VIBRANT COMMUNITIES