

# How Transit consults with the public



**T**ransit New Zealand consults on a wide range of issues that affect the public. These include project work, policy developments, state highway strategies and aspects of state highway maintenance.

Transit is committed to open consultation to improve the national state highway network.

The Transit New Zealand Act 1989 and the Resource Management Act 1991 provide a framework for Transit's consultation with all parties affected by changes to the network.

This brochure aims to provide the public with information about how Transit consults with the public about roading projects.

## **What is consultation?**

In 1992 the Court of Appeal defined consultation as follows. This definition has been widely adopted throughout New Zealand.

*“Consulting involves the statement of a proposal not yet finally decided upon, listening to what others have to say, considering their responses and then deciding what will be done.”*

Court of Appeal 1992  
Wellington International Airport Ltd vs Air New Zealand  
Cooke, Richardson, Hardie Boys, Gault and McKay.



## Who does Transit consult with?

Transit aims to consult with all parties who may be affected by a project. These may include:

- iwi and/or hapu
- directly affected residents
- directly affected landowners
- businesses
- road user representatives
- councils
- community boards
- community groups
- environmental interest groups
- government agencies.

## Why does Transit consult?

Transit consults with the community to gain assistance during the development of a project and to maximise the public benefit and efficiency of a project. Working with Transit and its consultants, the public can both offer and seek advice about the possible impacts of a project. Options and issues may be identified that Transit is not aware of, and that need to be considered.

Transit also consults to ensure directly affected parties, including local residents, can have input into plans that may affect them.

Ensuring environmental and social effects are properly balanced against economic and engineering considerations is important to Transit in performing its statutory duties.



## **How does Transit consult?**

The consultation process will vary depending on the size and complexity of the project. Large and complex projects, particularly in urban areas, generally require more consultation. In all cases Transit aims to consult directly affected landowners throughout the development of a project.

Consultation about projects may take the form of open days, hui or one-to-one consultation, with the aim of involving all affected parties.

### **Open Days**

Community open days are organised and advertised to explain a project's various options.

Usually spread over a day and sometimes taking the form of a public meeting, Transit representatives and consultants are present to answer questions and explain options. Transit wants to gather ideas as well as give information on these occasions.

### **Hui**

Project representatives will liaise with affected iwi and/or hapu to arrange hui.

### **One-to-One Consultation**

Project representatives will contact those directly affected by proposals on a one-to-one basis. A letter may be sent by Transit as the first contact.



## ➔ Keeping people informed

Transit endeavours to reach a wide audience when informing communities about a proposed project. This may take the form of newsletters and media reports. Project information is also available on Transit's Website: [www.transit.govt.nz](http://www.transit.govt.nz)

### **Newsletters**

Newsletters on large projects may be produced to explain what stage a project is at. Affected residents are generally sent these direct. If you are interested in receiving newsletters contact your local Transit office to find out if there is one for the project you're interested in and ask to be added to the distribution list.

### **Media**

The media is used for reaching a wider audience than Transit can directly contact. News items about a project allow people who otherwise may not have known about proposals to learn of them.

Open days and public meetings are often highlighted by community newspapers and radio stations.



## ➔ **Obtaining planning approvals**

Before undertaking any new project Transit must ensure it complies with the relevant environmental regulations – the most important of these are the provisions of the Resource Management Act (RMA). This will usually involve a process of applying for resource consents or designations. There is provision within these processes for the public to make submissions in support of or against Transit's proposals.

## ➔ **Environment Court**

There are well established processes set out in the RMA for appealing certain decisions to the Environment Court if matters cannot be resolved. Transit prefers to try and resolve issues raised by members of the public rather than going to formal court hearings.

For further information on the planning procedures under the RMA please contact your local council or your solicitor.



## Property Acquisition

The acquisition of land for any public purpose (including Transit state highway developments) is governed by the Public Works Act 1981.

The intention of the Act is to ensure landowners are fairly compensated so they are left in no better or no worse position than they were before the construction of the Transit project.

Transit aims to consult with all affected landowners on property acquisition matters and to deal with all landowners in a fair and timely manner. It is important to note that in all but exceptional circumstances Transit will not proceed to conclude property acquisitions until after a designation has been secured.

Transit often uses its appointed agents in this process. Transit prefers to negotiate the purchase of land required for its projects rather than use its power of compulsory acquisition under the Act.



This brochure is not intended to cover all aspects of the consultation process but it should answer many of your questions. For details on any particular Transit project please contact your closest Transit office. You may also wish to consult your solicitor who will be able to advise you further on your rights.

## Transit New Zealand Directory

### **Auckland Regional Office**

9th Floor  
148 Quay Street  
P O Box 1459, Auckland.  
Telephone 09 377 7092  
Facsimile 09 307 6843

### **Hamilton Regional Office**

Clayton House  
109 Anglesea Street  
P O Box 973, Hamilton.  
Telephone 07 838 8220  
Facsimile 07 839 3461

### **Napier Regional Office**

Napier Library Building  
22 Station Street  
P O Box 740, Napier.  
Telephone 06 835 1750  
Facsimile 06 835 0283

### **Wanganui Regional Office**

Seddon House  
Park Place  
P O Box 345, Wanganui.  
Telephone 06 345 4173  
Facsimile 06 345 7151

### **Wellington Regional Office**

2nd Floor, Transport House  
275 – 283 Cuba Street  
P O Box 27 477, Wellington.  
Telephone 04 801 2580  
Facsimile 04 801 2599

### **Christchurch Regional Office**

Level 7, Education House  
123 Victoria Street  
P O Box 1479, Christchurch.  
Telephone 03 366 4455  
Facsimile 03 365 6576

### **Dunedin Regional Office**

Level 2, Skeggs House  
62 – 66 Tennyson Street  
P O Box 5241, Dunedin.  
Telephone 03 477 8527  
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### **Head Office**

Investment House  
20 – 26 Ballance Street  
P O Box 5084, Wellington  
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