



**SUBMISSION ON PUBLICLY NOTIFIED NOTICES OF REQUIREMENT FROM THE NZ
TRANSPORT AGENCY - ALTERATIONS TO THE WAIKATO EXPRESSWAY
(HAMILTON SECTION) DESIGNATIONS FOR THE RUAKURA INTERCHANGE**

Sections 95A(2)(b), 168 and 181 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (Form 21)

To (hard copy or post):

To (hard copy or post):

- Waikato District Council
- Hamilton City Council
- All: c/- Rice Resources Limited, PO Box 431, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240 Attn: Steve Rice

Or **email** this submission to any of the Councils at: info@riceres.co.nz
Or **fax** this submission to any of the Councils at: (07) 846 5269

Submissions Close at 5pm on 22 October 2014
****Please note all sections of the following form need to be completed****

NAME OF SUBMITTER:

Full Name: Ken Tremaine on behalf of the Future Proof Implementation Committee
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Email: ken@kentremaine.co.nz
Fax:.....
Contact Person Ken Tremaine, Future Proof Implementation Advisor

THE SPECIFIC NOTICES OF REQUIREMENT FOR THAT MY SUBMIISION RELATES TO ARE: (give details)

NZ Transport Agency Notice of Requirement in Waikato District
 NZ Transport Agency Notice of Requirement in Hamilton City
Both ✓

Future Proof is interested in both of the Notices of Requirement in relation to the construction, operation and maintenance of the Ruakura Interchange. Future Proof is interested in all parts of the Notices of Requirement from a strategic, growth management and integrated planning point of view.

MY SUBMISSION IS: *(include reasons for your submission)*

Support ✓

Oppose

Neutral

Future Proof **supports** both of the Notices of Requirement in relation to the Waikato Expressway (Hamilton Section) Designations for the Ruakura Interchange.

Future Proof is the growth management strategy for Hamilton City, Waipa and Waikato Districts. The administrative areas of these three territorial authorities are projected to contain 94% of the entire Waikato region's population growth out to 2031. This increase in population and employment presents a number of challenges, especially in terms of managing the cumulative effects of this growth over time.

The Future Proof Strategy is focussed on a long term vision and outcomes, growth forecasts, the distribution and timing of growth and major infrastructure development, in particular strategic transport projects.

The Future Proof settlement pattern is the cornerstone of the Future Proof Strategy¹ and is a key part of the integrated approach to land use, infrastructure and funding. The settlement pattern is also crucial to achieving the sustainable management of growth for the sub-region and the wider region as anticipated by Part 2 of the RMA 1991, in particular section 5(2) of the Act.

Future Proof identifies key growth areas (industrial and residential), along with staging, which attempts to align with infrastructure. The Waikato Expressway is a key assumption underpinning the settlement pattern.

The Waikato Expressway is the number one transport priority for the Future Proof sub-region and the Waikato region. The Expressway is a Road of National Significance as identified in the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding. The Waikato Expressway project sits within a wider Upper North Island context as it aims to improve economic growth and productivity for the Upper North Island through more efficient movement of people and freight, improve the reliability of the transport network, reduce travel times between the Waikato and Auckland and support the settlement pattern and growth strategy as outlined in Future Proof and the Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement.

The Future Proof settlement pattern is based on the premise that the Waikato Expressway and its key interchanges will be completed. This is particularly important in terms of the Ruakura Interchange.

Future Proof identifies Ruakura as a key growth area for Hamilton City. The interchange will provide for the growth of this important area. In line with the Future Proof Strategy, Ruakura has been identified as a Strategic Industrial Node in the Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement and included within the urban limits.

¹ Future Proof Growth Strategy & Implementation Plan 2009, page 112.

The concept of locating employment land at Ruakura has been planned for the last 10 years or more. The site itself has been earmarked for some form of development since the 1960's. It is the view of the Future Proof partners that the industrial land at Ruakura has key strategic advantages, including its location on the road and rail networks and unified ownership, which make it different to other industrial areas.

It has become quite clear to the Future Proof partners that making provision for this site is about growing the economy and the promotion of economic development, in a regional, Upper North Island and national context. It is the inter-modal terminal / logistics hub and the research innovation components of the Ruakura development that are of most significance for the region and for New Zealand. These features have the potential to contribute to the Waikato region's competitive advantage in agricultural research and as a transport hub supporting Upper North Island economic development.

The Board of Inquiry approved the Ruakura Plan Change on 9 September 2014.

The decision accepted that the Ruakura development would:

- Enable more efficient use of the proposed Waikato Expressway
- Enable freight to be moved more quickly for lower costs and could enable the more efficient use of containers
- Provide an opportunity to reduce congestion

The Board of Inquiry also noted that the proposed development enabled by the plan change has the potential to generate economic benefits to the Waikato region and nationally. Other than jobs, it is likely to attract investment to the region that could otherwise be located in other parts of the country. The economic benefits of the inland port, once fully developed, are estimated to be equivalent to \$4.4 billion, or around 25% of Waikato's current Gross Regional Product.

It is for this reason that the Ruakura development is of significance to the Future Proof sub-region and the wider Waikato region. However, it cannot be implemented without key transport linkages – the Ruakura interchange is a critical component of this.

A fundamental principle of the Future Proof Strategy is the integration of land use with infrastructure, particularly transport. Part of the Future Proof Strategy vision is that infrastructure is well planned for to ensure it is affordable, efficient and able to cope with growth as and when it occurs. The Future Proof Strategy contains the following principle: *Protect existing and future infrastructure and transport corridors, including the Waikato Expressway, Southern Links and rail corridors, from development that could constrain or compromise the efficiency of infrastructure and transport corridor operation.*² The Ruakura Interchange designation directly supports this principle. The Future Proof Strategy also contains a priority action to implement the Strategic Transport Corridors (as per the Regional Land Transport Strategy and the Regional Land Transport Programme).³ The Waikato Expressway is the key Strategic Transport Corridor for the Waikato region as identified in the Regional Land Transport Strategy.

The Ruakura interchange will also enable the efficient management of heavy traffic both into and out of the inland port and the wider industrial area. With the interchange in place it will allow heavy traffic to use the Waikato Expressway rather than negatively impacting on residential amenity by using the Hamilton local roading network.

² Future Proof Growth Strategy & Implementation Plan 2009, page 21

³ Future Proof Growth Strategy & Implementation Plan 2009, Priority Action 38, page 72.

Future Proof also understands that there are proposed changes to the local roading system as a result of these Notices of Requirement. These changes include closing part of the existing Ruakura Road either side of the Hamilton Section of the Waikato Expressway and constructing a new relocated Ruakura Road. These changes are also supported as they form part of the package of works required to allow for the efficient and safe access into and out of the Ruakura development. It is acknowledged that a separate 10th Schedule LGA 1974 process will be required to complete the formal road stopping procedures.

Future Proof supports the Ruakura Interchange as it is a key part of the Waikato Expressway (Hamilton Section) project and it will help to implement the Ruakura development. In this sense the interchange is part of implementing the integrated settlement pattern for the sub-region. The interchange will help to facilitate a well-managed and integrated land use and transport system.

I SEEK THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COUNCILS ON THE NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT:

(give precise details, including the parts of the notices of requirement you wish to have amended and the general nature of any conditions sought)

That the Notices of Requirement for the Waikato Expressway (Hamilton Section) Designation for the Ruakura Interchange be confirmed.
.....
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.....

ARE YOU ATTACHING FURTHER PAGES?

Yes No (please tick) If so, how many:

HEARING

I do wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submission ✓
~~I do not wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submission (this means that you will not be advised of the date of the hearing and will not speak at the hearing)~~
If others make a similar submission I will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing ✓
You must tick one of the boxes above, otherwise it will be deemed that you do not wish to be heard and we will not advise you of the date of the hearing
I have served a copy of my submission on the NZ Transport Agency (this is

required under s96(6)(b) of the RMA) ✓

SIGNATURE:
*To be signed by submitter or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter.
(NB. A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means).*

Signed.....

Date: 21 October 2014

Notes to submitter:

- You must serve your submission on the requiring authorities, the NZ Transport Agency, as soon as reasonably practicable after you have served your submission on the Councils. The address for service for the requiring authorities is:
Opus International Consultants Limited, Private Bag 2057, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240 Attn: Craig McKibbin
- Your submission is public information and will be subject to release under the Official Information Act 1982.
- For more information on making a submission refer to www.mfe.govt.nz

Privacy information

The information you have provided on this form is required so that your submission can be processed under the RMA, and your name and address will be publicly available. The information will be stored on a public register and held by the Councils, and may also be made available to the public on the Council's website. In addition, any on-going communications between you and Councils will be held at Council's offices and may also be accessed upon request by a third party. Access to this information is administered in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the Privacy Act 1993. If you have any concerns about this, please discuss with a Council Planner prior to lodging your submission. If you would like to request access to, or correction of your details, please contact the Councils.