

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Reference: 2026-0449

19 May 2026
New Plymouth District Council
C/- Jacob Stenner, Growth and Services Supervisor

Private bag 2025
New Plymouth 4340

Via email: submissions@npdc.govt.nz

Dear Jacob,

Submission on the New Plymouth Part Operative District plan, Plan Change 2: Puketapu Structure Plan Development Area.

Attached is the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) submission on the New Plymouth part operative District plan, Plan Change 2: Puketapu Structure Plan Development Area.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the contents of our submission with council officers.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Susan Rawles
Senior Planner – Poutiaki Taiao / Environmental Planning
System Design, Transport Services

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FORM 5, CLAUSE 6 OF SCHEDULE 1, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

Submission on the New Plymouth Part Operative District plan, Plan Change 2: Puketapu Structure Plan Development Area.

To: New Plymouth District Council
Jacob Stenner, Growth and Services Supervisor

Private bag 2025
New Plymouth 4340
Via email: submissions@npdc.govt.nz

From: NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi
Private Bag 11777
Manawatu Mail Centre
Palmerston North 4442

1. This is a submission on the:

Plan Change 2 amendments to the Puketapu Structure Plan Development Area (PSPDA) in the New Plymouth Part Operative District Plan (the Plan). Plan Change 2 proposes to:

- Increase land for housing and open space - by rezoning land north of the current PSPDA.
- Create space for a small shopping area - by rezoning land at the corner of Airport Drive and the proposed Parklands Avenue extension within the existing PSPDA.
- Update planning maps - to show the latest information on waterbodies, roads, parks and walkways.
- Add a new policy - on adaptive management of earthworks.
- Make minor updates - to keep the plan accurate and up to date.

2. NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.**3. Role of NZTA**

NZTA is a Crown entity with its functions, powers and responsibilities set out in the Land Transport Management Act 2003 (LTMA) and the Government Roadway Powers Act 1989. The primary objective of NZTA under Section 94 of the LTMA is to contribute to an effective, efficient, and safe land transport system in the public interest.

An integrated approach to transport planning, funding and delivery is taken by NZTA. This includes investment in public transport, walking and cycling, local roads and the construction and operation of state highways.

4. State highway environment and context

State highways are physical resources of local and national importance. The safe, effective and efficient operation of state highways is supported by several District Plan Objectives and Policies.

State Highway 3 (SH3) is classified as an Interregional Connector in the One Network Framework classification system. It carries a high volume of through traffic, and it is a critical connection for people and freight between New Plymouth, Waitara, Waikato and the rest of the North Island. It also links to Port Taranaki and New Plymouth Airport. The PSPDA is reliant on SH3 for all vehicular access to Central New Plymouth and beyond.

5. The submission of NZTA is:

NZTA is neutral in relation to the amendments made by Plan Change 2 to the PSPDA in the Plan to the extent outlined in this submission.

NZTA is specifically interested in the transport effects on the State Highway 3 (SH3) corridor and the key SH3 intersections with Airport Drive, Wills Road, Corbett Road, Mangati Road and the Henwood Road Interchange.

Plan Change 2 (PC2) enables additional residential and commercial development in the PSPDA. However, the Integrated Transport Assessment undertaken by Beca in 2014 is out of date and no longer fit for purpose. The corridor has experienced sustained pressure since the original assessment was undertaken. Table 1 below shows that traffic counts are significantly higher now when compared to those used in the 2014 assessment.

Table 1: 2014 AADT vs 2024 AADT

Location	AADT 2014	AADT 2024
West of Henwood Road	16000	15944 East Bound
		16385 West Bound
SH3 near the Airport Drive Intersection	13000	18354

Further, the Henwood interchange is currently operating at Level of Service (LOS) D, and both the Airport Drive and Wills Road intersections are operating at LOS E. Additional growth accessing SH3 continues to put more pressure on these intersections.

The planned DeHavilland Drive / Airport Drive roundabout, Airport Drive realignment and roundabout, and Parklands Ave Extension projects will help to manage transport effects from the PSPDA. However, the cumulative effects arising from additional development have not been assessed.

Without being informed by up-to-date transport modelling and an updated assessment of effects on the SH3 and key intersections, the transport effects cannot be fully understood.

Therefore, NZTA considers that an updated integrated transport assessment, informed by local modelling, is required to fully understand the impacts of the changes to the PSPDV on the transport network. The outcomes of an updated transport assessment will identify and prioritise interventions to provide access to the PSPDA and maintain the safe and efficient operation of SH3.

NZTA is willing to work with NPDC in advance of a hearing, to confirm the modelling scope and scenarios, and if practicable, align the outcomes of this work with wider growth planning along the SH3 corridor.

6. NZTA seeks the following decision from the local authority:

NZTA seeks an updated integrated transport assessment, informed by local modelling, to be undertaken to understand the effects on State Highway 3 and the key intersections with Airport Drive, Wills Road, Corbett Road, Mangati Road and the Henwood Road Interchange.

Any other relief that would provide for the adequate consideration of potential effects on the state highway network.

7. **NZTA reserves its right to be heard in support of this submission.**

8. **NZTA is willing to work with the Council in advance of a hearing.**

Signature:



Senior Planner – Poutiaki Taiao / Environmental Planning
System Design, Transport Services
Pursuant to an authority delegated by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi

Date: 19 May 2026

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