

Report 03.335
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Committee Western Corridor Subcommittee
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Response to the Chamber of Commerce Submission on the Transmission Gully Cost Estimate Process

1. Purpose

To provide the subcommittee with a response from Transit New Zealand and the technical group on the submission put forward by the Chamber of Commerce on the Transmission Gully cost estimate process.

2. Background

An important factor in making a decision on whether the Transmission Gully motorway should be progressed early or not will be obtaining a reliable estimate for the cost of the project. This cost estimate will need to have sufficient certainty that decisions can be made that do not lead to undue risks.

At the meeting of the RLTC that took place on the 29 May 2003 the Chamber of Commerce tabled a submission on this cost estimate process. A copy of this submission is provided in **attachment 1**. The RLTC resolved that this matter be referred to the Western Corridor subcommittee.

3. Comment

The exercise to estimate the cost of the Transmission Gully project is the responsibility of Transit New Zealand. Nevertheless Transit New Zealand advise that they desire the involvement of the various Councils that make up the technical group for the Western Corridor.

A meeting of the technical group took place on 6 June 2003 where Transit New Zealand briefed the group on the cost estimate process and an interactive discussion took place.

Following the meeting the Wellington Regional Manager of Transit New Zealand has advised as below regarding the cost estimate process.

Transit New Zealand has commenced the agreed process to produce a new cost estimate for the Transmission Gully motorway with the close involvement of

the Councils' officers. When that is finished Councils and Transit New Zealand will be able to consider funding and timing. We see this as ultimately a discussion and decision at the political level, following advice from officers. Transit New Zealand has agreed with Councils that should it be apparent at that time that further investigations on e.g. geotechnics are needed before a decision can be made then we will seek funding to do that.

The Chamber made a different suggestion in discussion at the Regional Land Transport Committee aiming for the same objective of a clear decision on funding and timing.

4. Communications

There are no relevant communication matters.

5. Recommendation

That this report be received.

Report prepared by:

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Attachment:

1. Copy of Chamber of Commerce submission