

13 April 2023

REF: 6

Via email: schimpf@farmside.co.nz

Dear Richard,

Ōtaki to North of Levin Project – RMA Submission

Thank you for your submission (on behalf of the Horowhenua Equestrian Advocacy Group) on the Ōtaki to North of Levin Highway Project (the Project) in respect of the current Resource Management Act (RMA) processes. We appreciate you taking the time to input into this formal submission process.

Kāpiti Expressway and bridlepath facilities

In your submission you raise a number of concerns about the form and intended use of the shared use path that is proposed to be provided as part of the Project. We understand from your submission that the Horowhenua Equestrian Advocacy Group would like horse riders to be accommodated in the design of the shared use path.

In this regard, we are not aware of any adverse effect that the Ō2NL Project may have on any equestrian facilities including existing bridle paths or trails that would necessitate such adverse effects being managed through an RMA process. Further, over the past 20 years there have been no recorded traffic crashes on the part of the state highway between Ōtaki and north of Levin that have involved horses or equestrian users, that is aside from one crash that involved an empty horse float.

Your submission notes that horse riders were accommodated as part of the shared use path that was provided as part of new state highway development through Kāpiti (namely through the Mackays to Peka Peka and the Peka Peka to Ōtaki projects). Both of these projects cut across horse riding facilities and bridleways, including those, for example, associated with Kāpiti Pony Club. In these circumstances, it was therefore appropriate to provide new facilities to reconnect severed connections and to re-establish networks. This approach was consistent with Kāpiti Coast District Council's 'Cycle, Walkways and Bridleways Strategy' that provides a strategy for the ongoing development of a bridlepath network in Kāpiti including completing gaps in the network. As such, this Project does not have the same impact as the Kāpiti expressway (the Mackays to Peka Peka and Peka Peka to Ōtaki projects) and therefore does not necessitate the same response.

We understand that the Horowhenua Equestrian Advocacy Group consider that Waka Kotahi has excluded provision of horse riding facilities on the basis of costs alone. As explained above, the Project does not have an impact on horse riding facilities and there are no recorded safety concerns. Accordingly, there is currently no basis for the Project to include horse riding facilities in the scope of the proposed work.

Next steps

Thanks again for your submission. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss the matters you raise further.

Before you provided your submission, you may have been in touch with David Forrest, the independent 'Friend of Submitter' appointed by the Councils to support submitters. This free service is still available if you have further questions about the process, including in relation to making a joint submission with other submitters. You can contact David by emailing FriendOfSubmitter@horizons.govt.nz or phone 021 2477 366.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lonnie Dalzell', written in a cursive style.

Lonnie Dalzell

Project Director – Ōtaki to North of Levin
On behalf of the Ō2NL Project Team.