



Media release

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Major milestone for Hutt Valley's largest ever infrastructure project with RiverLink consent application lodged

A safer and more resilient transport and flood protection system for Lower Hutt is one step closer as the RiverLink partners have submitted their resource consent application.

RiverLink is the largest infrastructure project in the history of the Hutt Valley, and is central to transforming the city centre and Te Awa Kairangi | Hutt River into a vibrant, connected and resilient place to live, work and play.

Hutt City Council Mayor Campbell Barry says the lodging of resource consent application marks the culmination of years of mahi and collaboration involving the project team, key stakeholders and the community.

"This is the first tangible step the project has taken towards designing a project that will be truly transformative for Lower Hutt," says Campbell Barry.

"Alongside creating better transport connections and better protecting our city from flooding, RiverLink will help boost economic and urban growth and reconnect our city towards the river."

Greater Wellington Regional Council, Hutt City Council and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency are working together with Mana Whenua partners – Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika (Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust) to deliver RiverLink.

The project includes extensive flood protection works, a new Melling road bridge and a new pedestrian and cycle bridge across Te Awa Kairangi, connecting directly to the relocated Melling station, a network of new walkways and cycleways connecting people to the river, and the revitalisation of the city centre.

"Te Awa Kairangi | Hutt River is a treasure for our region, and one of our greatest risk due to the potential for it to flood. Recent heavy rain has reminded us how important this is. Greater Wellington's work will protect up to 3,000 homes, five schools, 600 businesses and prevent major damage to the community," says Daran Ponter, Chair of Greater Wellington.

"RiverLink is all about providing more transport choice and reducing the impact of travel on the environment, making it easier and safer for everyone - pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users, micro-mobility, freight and motorists - to travel around Lower Hutt and into Wellington," says Emma Speight, Waka Kotahi Director Regional Relationships, Wellington.

A mana whenua steering group comprising iwi representatives from Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika and Ngāti Toa Rangatira will continue an existing Te Ara Tupua partnership with Waka Kotahi, and embrace new partnerships with Greater Wellington Regional Council and Hutt City Council throughout the detailed design and delivery of the RiverLink project. Chair of the mana whenua steering group, Kim Skelton, speaks to the opportunities that RiverLink presents.



“RiverLink will enable us to reinforce the cultural narrative of Te Ara Tupua, to embed our cultural design strategy ‘He Korowai o Te Awakairangi, He Korowai ki te whenua’ into the physical design and construction. Important to us is the ability to enhance our kaitiaki relationship with the river Te Awakairangi, acknowledging Te Mana o te Wai, and the tributary streams and mahinga kai as a source of life and sustenance for past, present and future generations.”

“RiverLink is a substantial project so we anticipate sizeable social and economic outcomes to flow to local communities and people will benefit through training, employment, internships, and procurement using local iwi-Māori businesses. These opportunities are part of a wider breadth of regional infrastructure projects across Lower Hutt that includes the shared cycle paths Ngā Ūranga ki Pito-One, Pito-One ki Maraenuka and Eastern Bays, which traverse pā sites and other places that are culturally significant to iwi mana whenua. The next generations living in Te Awakairangi will grow up with a deeper understanding and appreciation of our rich mana whenua narrative and history.”

Details of the lodged consent application, and supporting documents, are available to view on the project website www.riverlink.co.nz

The application has been lodged with Greater Wellington (the lead Regulator) and Hutt City Council. Construction is scheduled to start in early 2023 following a favourable decision.

Ends

Find out more – www.riverlink.co.nz

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RiverLink



RiverLink indicative design: looking south