Information Sheet 2: Consents and the decision making process – Southern Pipeline case study

Application and Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE)

The Tauranga City Council (TCC) is required to complete an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) as part of the resource consent application process for the all activities related to the Southern Pipeline. As part of the AEE Council must show that alternatives have been considered.

Summary of the consent requirements

The majority of the Southern Pipeline is within TCC road reserve (around 10 km of the 14.5 km pipeline route). Consent is not therefore, generally required under TCC's District Plan (permitted activity in the road).

However, consent is required at regional level for a comprehensive earthworks consent for the whole pipeline. Tauranga City Council must therefore apply to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council for consent to undertake these works. The major requirements for consent are for works within the Coastal Marine Area, being:

- Reclamation for the foreshore walkway (approximately 1.5 hectare);
- Reclamation for the railway causeway widening (approximately 1 hectare);
- Permanent and temporary reclamations on the Matapihi foreshore (between 0.1 and 0.4 hectare – depending on whether access to private land can be agreed, in which case the smaller area applies);
- Upgrading of the ECMT Railway Bridge No. 71 (various coastal permits required).
 Construction of the submarine pipeline harbour crossing if the railway bridge upgrade does not proceed.

Because of their extent, some of these activities are Restricted Coastal Activities and require the consent of the Minister of Conservation. These consent applications will be fully publicly notified, which will enable people to lodge submissions and have their concerns addressed in a public hearing. Consent is also required to pass through one Special Ecological Site (SES) at Te Maunga (SES 11).

Summary of all consents

A summary of the consents required for the Southern Pipeline is provided on the following page. Note that this diagram includes consents required for the walkway and the rail bridge upgrade that have now been discarded in favour of the Devonport Road route and a submarine pipeline.

References and additional reading

URS for Tauranga City Council. 2007. Tauranga Southern Pipeline, Memorial-Strand Walkway, and East Coast Main Trunk Railway Bridge Upgrade Assessment of Effects on the Environment VOLUME 1. Final Report No. 70.

Question / Pātai:

- 1. What are the different types of consent required for the Southern Pipeline?'
- 2. Who is the consent authority for each of these?
- 3. Why is no consent required when the pipeline route is located on road reserve?
- 4. Why are these consents likely to be publicly notified? And what does this mean?

Map – summary of consents for the Southern Pipeline

Also available as a higher resolution PDF file for printing on A3 or larger.

