



## Protocol for NZ Transport Agency and Department of Conservation engagement in Resource Management Act processes

### A Special Agreement under Section 8 of the NZ Transport Agency and DOC Relationship Memorandum of Understanding

#### Purpose

To describe the expected behaviours and processes when DOC and the Transport Agency are involved in Resource Management Act (RMA) processes.

#### Key Principles

We will achieve early and meaningful engagement.

We do this so that we have a strong understanding of each other's respective positions, we develop a collaborative relationship, we seek to resolve matters prior to consent hearings, we secure better outcomes and our time is used efficiently.

We will acknowledge where we agree on values, effects and mitigation and seek workable solutions where we don't.

We do this so that we direct our energy to key issues and work efficiently and in good faith to create the best outcomes for New Zealanders.

We will consistently behave with honesty, integrity and courtesy.

We do this so that we create an environment of openness and trust, we better understand and respect each other's statutory functions and priorities and we can confidently discuss each organisation's position and the outcomes that are sought.

We will communicate openly, with direction and focus.

We do this so that those involved in the consent processes are well informed of the context of the engagement, the matters to be discussed, their role, who to contact and the behaviours expected.

We acknowledge that complying with this Protocol will create the best outcomes for New Zealanders and enable us to enjoy working together successfully.

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## Implementation

### 1. We will achieve early and meaningful engagement by

- agreeing a joint structure that sets out when to engage, who is involved, communication, roles, and how risks and issues will be managed
- ensuring meeting requests are timely with agendas agreed in advance
- ensuring timely provision of information that is sufficiently detailed to enable a thorough discussion on the issues
- ensuring experts engage early and are well briefed on constraints and opportunities
- encouraging expert witness conferencing at all stages of a consent process
- honouring agreements made

### 2. We will acknowledge where we agree on values, effects and mitigation and seek workable solutions where we don't, by

- acknowledging existing applicable guidelines
- recording areas where there is agreement on the value of species and ecosystems, effects and mitigation
- acknowledging areas of disagreement or where further information would assist with understanding
- seeking workable solutions
- keeping internal decision makers informed throughout this process
- providing feedback to both agencies where guidelines or research would be beneficial to future projects

### 3. We will consistently behave with honesty, integrity and courtesy by

- ensuring both organisations timeframes are communicated early and changes are regularly updated
- committing the staff resources required to ensure agreed or statutory timeframes are met
- creating a better shared understanding of our statutory functions and priorities
- accepting that the protocol does not require us to agree with each other, and that we may express different views through the process
- calling to account behaviour that is inconsistent with the protocol
- having project leads champion collaboration under this protocol and monitoring its success
- enabling senior leaders to have meaningful conversations on the application of this protocol
- aligning our communications to the media including where there are still matters to resolve between our organisations
- jointly celebrating success for projects that achieved good outcomes for the Transport Agency and DOC

### 4. We will communicate openly, with direction and focus by

- requesting senior leaders to sign up to the protocol
- ensuring the intent of the MOU and protocol is well known across all levels in both organisations, and with consultants and contractors involved in the consent processes
- including references to the MOU and protocol in contract documents
- identifying the appropriate contact people for each consent process
- providing information on the roles, responsibilities and processes associated with each organisation's involvement in the consent work