**Notification Summary**

**Overview**

A notice of requirement (NoR) has been lodged by Hamilton City Council (HCC) to designate land for the construction and operation of a stormwater swale corridor which will function as the principal stormwater management and drainage channel in the Rotokauri area. The purpose of the designation as described in the NoR is for “stormwater purposes”. The project is known as the Rotokauri “Greenway”.

This NoR is located within the area of Rotokauri which is located on the north-western outskirts of Hamilton City. The land for which the NoR relates is largely within the jurisdiction of HCC, with a small portion within the jurisdiction of the adjoining Waikato District Council (WDC), which is subject to a separate NoR. The centreline of Exelby Road marks the boundary between the two councils.

The Greenway corridor follows an existing farm drain known as the Rotokauri Drain which is the main outlet for the Rotokauri catchment and runs from Lake Waiwhakareke in the south to Lake Rotokauri in the north-west.

**Background**

The Rotokauri area was transferred into Hamilton City from Waikato District to accommodate urban development required as a result of the future growth of the city. Since that time key documents have been produced to guide future development.

HCC developed the Rotokauri Structure Plan (RSP) in 2007-2008 which is embedded in the Hamilton District Plan and establishes the framework for future development. The RSP identifies the future land uses including residential, business and public open space; and the location of key supporting infrastructure including transport corridors and a central green drainage corridor. The land required for the designation follows the alignment of the green central drainage corridor as shown on the RSP.

The Rotokauri Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICMP) was finalised by HCC in 2017 and provides a framework for the management of stormwater, wastewater and water within the 788 ha Rotokauri catchment to enable future development to occur in a managed way. The ICMP has been approved by WRC (in a technical certification capacity for stormwater), in accordance with the comprehensive stormwater discharge consent held by HCC. The ICMP contains best practicable options (BPOs) and integrated management solutions which seek to address the main issues for the catchment and to meet generic and catchment specific objectives and targets. The BPOs and catchment management solutions for stormwater include a fundamental solution to establish a Green Corridor Network. The NoR is the most significant means of implementing the ICMP, as it seeks to designate land for the establishment of the central green corridor as the main storage and conveyance channel for stormwater.

The comprehensive stormwater discharge consent held by HCC provides for stormwater discharges to Lake Rotokauri and expires in 2036.

**Greenway Stormwater Function**

The design aims to ensure that the Greenway will function as a key means to achieve ICMP targets for contaminant removal and flood attenuation, whilst ensuring the in-stream ecological habitat is optimised. The design is currently in concept (detailed design is yet to commence) and includes the main corridor together with a series of wetland treatment areas, some of which are located...
outside of the designation. Inclusion of the wetlands that are outside the designation within the concept design is intended to demonstrate the functionality and effectiveness of the corridor to achieve the ICMP targets, but the location and extent of those wetlands will be designed and provided by private developers in accordance with the requirements of the ICMP.

The Greenway is a corridor containing a low-flow conveyance channel, a series of linear treatment wetlands, and a series of wetland/ponds to manage high stormwater flows during large rainfall events. The Greenway is divided into five basins which are defined by culverted road crossings. Within each basin all of the channel and wetland elements will be incorporated. Each culvert serves as a flow-restriction mechanism allowing attenuation of flows in larger rainfall events. The culvert at Exelby Road has been sized to limit discharge to Lake Rotokauri to its existing maximum flow.

**Greenway Recreation and Transport Function**

The Greenway is also intended to be an attractive public open space and recreational environment for the community and incorporates an off-road walking and cycling path along its length. The Greenway will connect primary nodes within Rotokauri being the Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park, the future sports park near Rotokauri Road, the WINTEC campus, the suburban centre commercial node near Te Wetini Drive, the future northern commercial hub and reserve and Lake Rotokauri. As outlined within the NoR documentation, the Greenway provides opportunities to create a linear parkland environment and an ecological ‘green’ corridor comprising a restored stream and wetland environment which will provide indigenous habitat.

**Construction Programme and Methodology**

As outlined in the NoR, the Greenway construction programme is based on Council’s Long-Term Plan infrastructure funding programme. The Long-Term Plan 2018-2028 (LTP) has Greenway construction funding timed for year 7, being the 2024/2025 financial year. Based on the envisaged three-year construction programme, completion of the Greenway will be in 2027.

The NoR states that construction of the Greenway is likely to be undertaken over three construction seasons. The construction process will commence from Exelby Road and proceed in a downstream to upstream direction.

The indicative staging as per the NoR is as follows:

- **Stage 1** – Construction of Basins 4 and 5, with the associated wetlands within this section of the Greenway.
- **Stage 2** – Construction of Basin 3, with the associated wetlands within this section of the Greenway.
- **Stage 3** – Construction of Basins 1 and 2, with the associated wetlands within this section of the Greenway.

Diversion drains will be used to divert the existing flow within Rotokauri drain for each basin whilst the Greenway corridor is constructed.