

TRAFFIC

Assessment

Traffic impacts will predominantly occur during construction of the access roads and wind farm, and only minor traffic impacts from maintenance staff once the site is operational. It is estimated that the internal road construction will take six months, followed by wind farm construction, which is anticipated to take up to twelve months. During the construction, minor traffic impacts will occur resulting from over-dimension, and possibly overweight, vehicles, goods vehicles and construction staff vehicles all accessing the site via Kawhia Road (Te Mata Quarry). The majority of materials such as earthworks, pavements and concrete will be sourced and manufactured on-site and hence will have no external effect.

External deliveries to site include cement (approximately 200 trips), reinforcing steel (50 trips) and fuelling and maintenance (300 trips) and similar all over an extended period. Workers providing the expertise and labour will generate the largest movements (30-40 trips per day).

An over length truck will travel to the site in the order of 84 times over a 6 month period. To assess the effects of the over length vehicle, a "dummy" run has been undertaken to ascertain that the route via SH23, Te Mata Road and Kawhia Road is suitable. This was undertaken during the day and demonstrated that the 45m load was able to reach the destination without any significant difficulties.

Overall, construction traffic effects are expected to be no more than minor.

Community

Traffic effects on the adjacent road network are anticipated to include minor delays to traffic due to over-dimensioned vehicles, minor intersection capacity delays and minor traffic safety effects. There may be some minor pavement deterioration from the heavy commercial vehicles particularly on Te Mata and Kawhia Roads.

The wind farm may be a novelty for some passers by or tourists, and a formal observation platform and information area will be located in the Te Uku township, off SH23. Advisory road signs near the Raglan deviation are recommended. The observation platform works adjacent to the community hall will be supplemented by intersection improvement works at Okete / Matakotea / SH23.