

Questions and Answers – Traffic Signals Waimea Rd / Princes Drive December 2018

Q1: How long have we known there would be a new intersection at Bishopdale?

A1: A proposed road is shown on the 2004 Nelson Resource Management Plan Maps, which were publicly consulted and adopted.

Nelson has to plan some new roads to provide a connected and resilient road network in a growing city. A new road connecting Waimea Road to Princes Drive provides resilience and options for people accessing the Tahunanui Hills.

Q2: Why do we need a new intersection on Waimea Road?

A2: Princes Drive is being extended to connect with Waimea Rd to enable the development of both the Tasman Heights residential subdivision and the Coastal View Lifestyle Village planned for the hillside above Waimea Rd. The development of this hillside was originally given resource consent in 2000, with numerous variations to the consents since then.

Nelson is a growing so there is a need to provide more access to the arterial road network for those growth areas.

Q.3: Why are traffic signals proposed for Waimea Rd on Bishopdale Hill?

A.3: The traffic signals are proposed as the most efficient long-term option to control traffic at the new intersection, which is expected to be constructed in 2019. The intersection (including traffic signals) will be paid for and built by the developer of Tasman Heights subdivision and Coastal Views Lifestyle Village.

The traffic signals are being designed to accommodate the future traffic potential of the Tasman Heights area whilst maintaining good operating conditions on Waimea Rd. Once installed traffic signals phasing can be monitored and managed to maintain optimal traffic flow through the intersection.

Q.4: What will the intersection and traffic signal design look like?

A.4: The final design is still being developed but the preliminary design was completed as part of the Resource Consent for Coastal Views Lifestyle Village in 2016.

There will be four lanes on Waimea Rd, including a through lane heading southbound (towards Stoke) that won't be controlled by the lights so will allow a free traffic flow in that direction. This means it will only be southbound vehicles that want to turn right into Princes Drive that will be affected by the traffic signals. North bound (heading towards Nelson city) the through traffic will only be stopped when a vehicle wants to get in or out of Princes Drive.

Q.5: Why can't it be a roundabout or merge lanes?

A.5: There are a number of reasons a roundabout was not supported including the space needed for a roundabout to cater for 25,000 vehicles per day on Waimea Rd would mean encroaching on to adjacent properties.

In terms of slowing traffic, all vehicles using a roundabout need to slow down to negotiate them. At traffic signals Waimea Rd traffic will only be stopped when a vehicle enters or leaves Princes Drive and priority will always be given to the most efficient operation of Waimea Rd. The operation of traffic signals can be controlled and the side road traffic held to improve the efficiency of the main road, whereas with a roundabout this control is not possible.

Merge lanes are not recommended on safety grounds for roads with traffic volumes as high as Waimea Road.

Q.6: Will this have any effect on the Southern Link?

A.6: Whilst the Southern Link is not currently proposed for construction, the route it might follow, to the north of Beatson Road and leading onto the Railway Reserve, is protected (as agreed by a previous Council resolution) in the intersection and traffic signal design so the corridor remains available for future transport use.

Q.7: What about the Railway Reserve walking and cycling route.

A.7: The Railway Reserve walking and cycling path will remain on its current alignment passing underneath Princes Drive through an underpass. Council will fund this underpass as part of the original agreement for the developer to relocate the access road to the Tasman Heights subdivision in order to protect the Southern Link corridor.

Proposed intersection plan (see next page)

PLEASE NOTE: This is an indicative plan only, the final plan is still to be confirmed.

