

11.6 FEATHERSTON RAILWAY CROSSING ROAD STOPPING

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File Number:

PURPOSE

To seek delegated authority from Council to the Chief Executive Officer for the stopping of portions of Bell and Brandon Streets in Featherston as legal road. This is part of the proposal to close the road/rail crossing to vehicular access.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM) programme is delivering a transformative upgrade to regional rail services. At its heart is Tūhono – a fleet of 18 five-car battery-electric multiple unit (BEMU) trains, the first of their kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

The programme also includes significant infrastructure improvements, such as upgraded stations, new stabling yards, and upgrades to all road rail crossings. This includes the closure of Bell and Brandon Streets crossings within the South Wairarapa.

As part of the upgrade both Bell and Brandon Streets crossings in Featherston are planned for closure in late 2025 early 2026 with the underlying road to be stopped.

The requirements of the Local Government Act 1974 section 32, schedule 7 notes that Council cannot delegate the decision to dispose of land.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. Receives the Featherston Railway Crossing Road stopping report
2. Notes that public notification of the proposal to stop portions of Bell and Brandon Streets will be undertaken in accordance with Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1974.
3. Agree to declare that approximately 363 m² of Bell Street (being SO 618892) is not required as legal road and is vested in the Rail corridor
4. Agree to declare that approximately 608 m² of Brandon Street (being SO 618894) is not required as legal road and is vested in the Rail corridor.
5. Delegate to the Chief Executive Officer all powers necessary to proceed with the process to stop the legal road; comprising 363 m² of Bell Street (being SO 618892) and 608 m² of Brandon Street (being SO 618894) and to complete the transaction.

BACKGROUND

DISCUSSION

1. Proposed Road stopping

2. Survey Plan

A Survey Office Plan for each section of street has been commissioned and completed by KiwiRail.

The area of land in question is:

Brell Street 0.0608ha

Brandon Street 0.0363 ha

3. Notification

The notification requirements relating to the proposed stopping of the legal sections of road are provided in Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1974. Notification consists of both on site signage and insertion in newspaper media.

KiwiRail will continue with community engagement to ensure there is high awareness of the proposed changes.

CONSIDERATIONS

Financial

There is no financial impact.

Climate Change

This project reduces greenhouse gas emissions within the KiwiRail public transport network.

COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

4. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
5. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

Compliance requirement	Staff assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	This is a matter of low significance.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the Long Term Plan) that relate to this decision.	This report complies with Schedule 10 Local Government Act 1974.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water.	There are no implications for Māori.
Chief Financial Officer review	The Chief Financial Officer has not reviewed this report.
State the possible implications for health and safety	There are no health and safety considerations for the Council

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Appendix 1 SO 618892 Bell Street
Appendix 2 Appendix 2 SO 618894 Brandon Street