

# **DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL FUEL TAX – REPORT ON CONSULTATION**

## **Submission process**

The Land Transport Management (Regional Fuel Tax) Amendment Bill, requires that a regional council must carry out consultation in accordance with the principles set out in section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002. The council may also use the special consultative procedure specified in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Auckland Council consulted on its Long Term Plan 2018-28 (LTP) from 28 February 2018 to 28 March 2018. At this time, the Council proposed to implement a Regional Fuel Tax of 10 cents per litre plus GST to fund transport infrastructure. The council asked the community through the LTP consultation whether it supported a regional fuel tax as a mechanism to fund transport infrastructure. The consultation preceded the release of the Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS) and the release of the updated Auckland Transport Alignment Project (ATAP), so the council was unable to confirm the projects that the Regional Fuel Tax would fund. The council did however indicate to the community that the projects to be funded by a regional fuel tax were likely to focus on public transport infrastructure, active transport infrastructure, safety projects, and high priority roading projects to ease congestion and support growth.

Following the release of the draft GPS and ATAP, and the introduction of the Land Transport Management (Regional Fuel Tax) Amendment Bill, the Council adopted a draft Regional Fuel Tax proposal as the basis of public with the Auckland community.

The consultation period was two weeks from 1 May 2018 to 15 May 2018. Consultation on the Regional Fuel Tax proposal took place in conjunction with Auckland Transport's consultation on the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP).

Consultation was primarily focused as an on-line activity but hard copy information and questionnaires were available at council service centres and libraries. In addition to the draft proposal, a four page overview document was prepared and this formed the basis of the introductory on-line information. Summary information translated into 3 languages was also available.

Five "Have Your Say" events were held around the Auckland region and specific engagement with mana whenua groups also took place.

Communications activity to raise awareness utilised Auckland Council and Auckland Transport social media channels and proactive media engagement. Print, radio and digital advertising were the primary focus of the media engagement.

17,223 written responses were received to the combined Regional Fuel Tax and RLTP consultations. Of these 14,549 were replies to the question on the use of a Regional Fuel Tax to fund transport infrastructure. There were also 182 comments provided through "Have Your Say" events and 89 comments via social media on this issue.

12,811 written responses were received to the question on the relative importance of the transport projects included in the Regional Fuel Tax proposal, along with 25 comments from "Have Your Say" events and 15 comments from social media.

A more detailed analysis of the submissions received is attached to this report.

*Note for councillors – attachments will be the Draft Regional Fuel Tax report and the CEI Regional Fuel Tax report.*

### **Response to submissions**

Following public feedback, Council has determined that a Regional Fuel Tax is the most appropriate funding mechanism to fund additional transport investment.

No major changes are proposed to the Regional Fuel Tax funded projects on the basis that these are complemented by a programme of government funded projects (through NZTA and Kiwirail). This total mix of projects is designed to provide an integrated regional solution focused on the key challenges, as well providing benefits across all communities. There does not seem to be any compelling reasons to change the mix of projects from the draft proposal, but public preferences and commentary can be taken into account in prioritising implementation.