

GREATER WELLINGTON PROPOSED NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN (PROPOSED PLAN)

Baseline Statement of the New Zealand Transport Agency, Kiwi Rail, First Gas and Wellington Water (the Infrastructure Providers)

The Infrastructure Providers consider that the Proposed Plan fails to adequately provide for, and enable, Regionally Significant Infrastructure (*RSI*). The ability to maintain, upgrade, and develop existing *RSI*, and to consent new projects, is a critical part of providing for the cultural, social, and economic well-being of the region's people and communities. Under the Proposed Plan's current framework, this will be challenging at best for all *RSI* providers.

The Infrastructure Providers consider that amendments are required to the Proposed Plan to provide an enabling objectives and policy framework for *RSI*, while managing environmental effects. This framework also needs to provide some direction as to how the policies aimed at protecting the natural environment are to be balanced against the need to use, develop, and protect *RSI*, recognising that, with respect to linear infrastructure in particular, there are often constraints as to its nature and location.

Specifically, the Infrastructure Providers consider that the "front-end" objectives and policies in the Proposed Plan need to be strengthened to actively provide for the upgrade, maintenance, use and development of *RSI*, and the "back-end" objectives and policies need to be softened by incorporating a caveat or "fall back" position to provide for *RSI* in certain circumstances.