

SOUTHERN INTERCHANGE AND ARTERIAL CONNECTION

The project described in this profile has been identified by an indicative business case and will require further technical investigation and engagement before its final detail, location or land requirement is confirmed. It is also yet to be prioritised for funding for delivery over the next 10-30 years.

Purpose

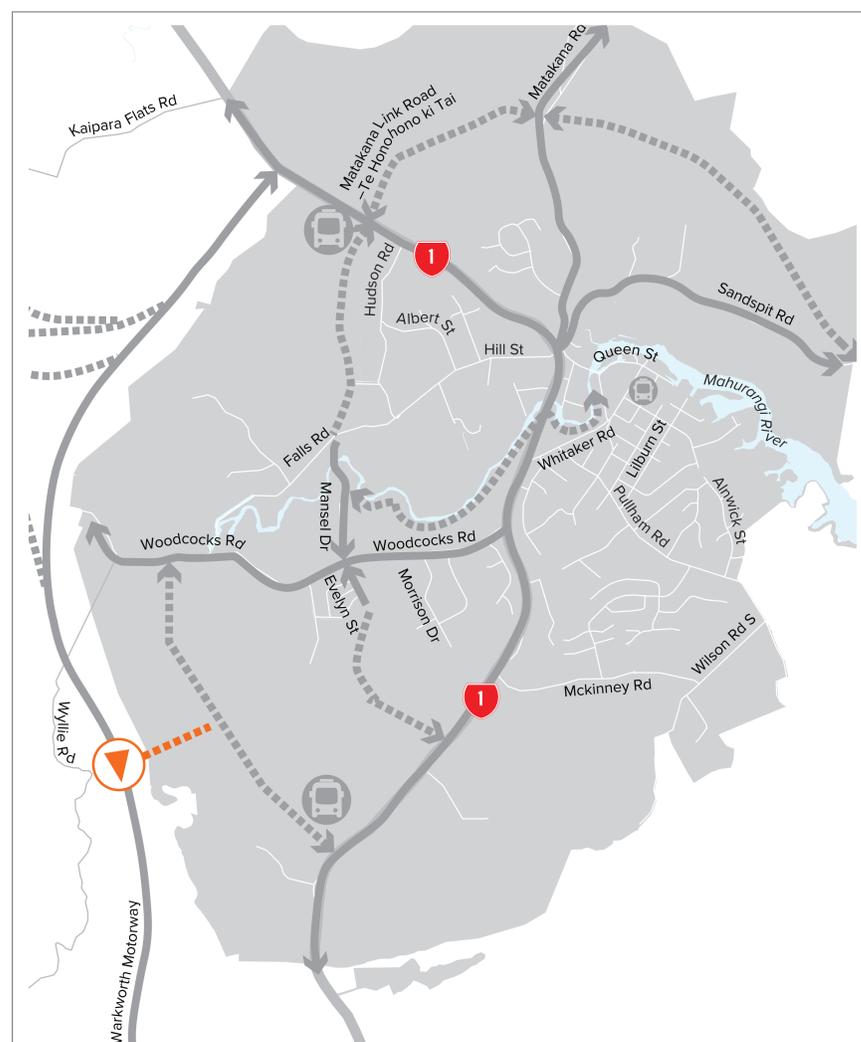
The proposed Southern Interchange on the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway is proposed to be developed over the long term, to align with the release of land in the southern growth area. It will primarily serve the southern future growth area, while Ara Tūhono - Pūhoi to Warkworth's northern tie-in at SH1 will continue to serve northern Warkworth, the central township and Northland-bound through-traffic. The interchange will also provide a location to transfer to public transport services between Auckland and Warkworth. It is proposed to have south-facing ramps only. The exact form and function of both the interchange and connecting arterial is still to be determined.

Description

The Southern Interchange and arterial connects Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway to the Wider Western Link (refer to *Wider Western Link profile*).

The interchange will have south-facing ramps and will be located south of Woodcocks Road and in the vicinity of Wylie Road, with its exact location still to be determined.

The proposal for south-facing ramps only at this location recognises that there is significant



growth planned in the southern region that needs a well-designed local network, including key arterials and motorway access, in order to balance trips in the long term across the wider Warkworth area. Ara Tūhono - Pūhoi to Warkworth's northern tie-in will continue to provide for local access to greater Northland, eastern beaches and the northern parts of Warkworth. The close proximity to the proposed Warkworth to Wellsford interchange also means that north-facing ramps would be difficult to safely implement.

Key benefits

The Southern Interchange and arterial will provide improved access from the new motorway to the Wider Western Link and

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approximately 3,600 additional houses and 900 new jobs in the southern growth area of Warkworth. It will also balance traffic flows and provide an alternative to Ara Tūhono - Pūhoi to Warkworth's northern tie-in, existing SH1 and Hill Street intersection. The Southern Interchange also provides an opportunity to connect buses to a proposed public transport interchange in the southern growth area to support people wishing to commute between Auckland and Warkworth.

Current status

In 2018, engagement was undertaken regarding the provision of a Southern Interchange including south facing ramps and a connecting arterial. Following analysis of feedback and technical investigations, study areas for the interchange and arterial were confirmed as part of the indicative network plan in mid-2019. At this stage, we have general study areas within which further investigation will be undertaken.

In early 2019 the programme's draft indicative plans for this connection were included in Auckland Council's consultation materials for the area's structure plan, and feedback received during this time will be considered as part of the next stage of the programme's planning.

As the primary purpose of a southern interchange would be to support local growth in southern Warkworth, which is not expected to be rezoned or released in the next 10 years, it is not anticipated there will be any construction or enabling works for this project during the construction period of Ara Tūhono - Pūhoi to Warkworth through to 2021. The programme's aim is to route protect the land required for this interchange and to ensure it can be delivered in line with growth in the south in the long term.

