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## PROPOSED TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IMPACT REPORT:

### RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011 STADIUM AREA CLOSURES FOR 8 GAMES, BEGINNING SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER UP TO AND INCLUDING SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER

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#### 1. Description of Event

As a responsible Host City for Rugby World Cup 2011 (RWC) and in conjunction with Rugby New Zealand 2011 (The Organiser), and at the request of the New Zealand Police, road closures have been identified to enhance pedestrian safety and to better manage the taxi vehicle behaviour in and around the Wellington Regional Stadium. During the Rugby World Cup the capacity of the stadium will increase to approximately 40,000 for each game. Greater numbers of pedestrians walking to the stadium are expected for these matches - with many unfamiliar with Wellington roads and its traffic. The proposed road closures (and some parking restrictions) will affect roads and traffic in the area surrounding the Wellington Regional Stadium on the days of the eight planned matches. The proposed closures seek to provide a safer environment for pedestrians and a more effective way of managing taxis. The proposed closures are designed to cause as little disruption as possible to public transport and vehicle traffic while allowing access for businesses in the area.

Permission is sought to close **Bunny Street** (at its intersection with Featherston Street), 2 hours prior to kick off until 1 hour after the conclusion of the each match and **Mulgrave Street** (between Aitken Street and the intersection of Featherston Street and Thorndon Quay); **Kate Sheppard Place** (at its intersection with Mulgrave Street); **Thorndon Quay** (between Davis Street and Featherston Street - local access only); **Featherston Street** (between Thorndon Quay and Whitmore Street – local access only); and **Stout Street** (between Whitmore Street and Bunny Street – local access only), from half time until 1 hour after the conclusion of each match on each match day between Sunday 11 September until Sunday 9 October 2011.

*Kick off times for match days are;*

- **8.30pm** on Sunday 11 September
- **6.00pm** on Saturday 17 September
- **8.30pm** on Friday 23 September
- **8.30pm** on Sunday 25 September
- **6.00pm** on Saturday 1 October
- **3.30 pm** on Sunday 2 October

- **6.00pm** on Saturday 8 October
- **6.00pm** on Sunday 9 October

Public notification signs will be placed at strategic points around the closures and detour routes will be well sign posted. The closures and the proposed traffic management system will also be advertised in the Our Wellington Page of the Dominion Post in the weeks preceding the matches. Other notifications are also planned – these may include letter drops, extra signage, direct communication with stakeholders (especially Licensed Taxi Operators) and other public advertisements.

A traffic management plan approved by Council Officers will be necessary for the above proposal. The closures will be managed by a professional traffic management company, with the assistance of the New Zealand Police at certain points. Emergency services will have immediate access to all areas if required.

While permission to close these roads is requested three months away from the Rugby World Cup event, there is still time for the organisers to come back to the Regulatory Processes Committee with any further adjustment to road closures learned from the previous 30 July 2011 Test Match.

## **2. Rugby World Cup and Events Directorate Support**

Wellington, as one of the 23 Host Regions, plays a significant role in delivering the Rugby World Cup 2011. Wellington City Council, in association with the Match Venue provider Wellington Regional Stadium Trust, plays host to 6 pool and 2 quarter final matches at the Wellington Regional Stadium.

The Council has set itself critical success factors by which it will measure successful delivery. Performance of the traffic management plan (TMP) assists on delivering some of these factors, in particular:

- Positive visitor and residents experiences are achieved and provide enduring memories
- Rugby World Cup legacy outcomes are recognised by the community as a positive achievement for the city
- Key milestones are achieved and a state of readiness is demonstrated and reported throughout the Rugby World Cup programme of work.

Rugby New Zealand 2011 also has Key Strategic Goals which are embedded within our Host Region Agreement of which the following is most pertinent:

- Delivering an operationally excellent tournament.

Notwithstanding Rugby World Cup, Wellington City Council has a responsibility and duty of care to improve safety where opportunity exists. Taking this, the critical success factors and RNZ2011 Key Strategic Goals into account, improvements in pedestrian safety and taxi behaviour directly contribute and/or deliver upon these requirements.

To achieve these expectations for match days the proposed road closures (and some parking restrictions) deliver upon this need.

### **3. Proposal Notice and Consultation**

The public notice that the Council was proposing to consider this closure was published in the following newspaper:

- Dominion Post Saturday 14 May 2011

The New Zealand Police, Fire Services, Wellington Free Ambulance and the Ministry of Transport have also been consulted with.

Council discussed options with the taxi industry during the Taxi Forum held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2011. Concerns raised have been incorporated in the proposed road closures and Traffic Management Plan. Licensed taxi operators were also given an opportunity to discuss their ideas on ways to improve operation by attending a forum on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. However with only 2 of the 17 organisations confirming they would like to attend, the forum was cancelled. Subsequently those taxi companies expressing an interest to share their ideas have been met with Council officers on a one on one basis.

### **4. Objections**

No objections were received in response to the proposal notice.

### **5. Traffic Impact Assessment**

#### **Prior Closures**

None of the proposed closures for this event will result in a road being closed for an aggregate of more than 31 days in any year.

#### **Traffic Impact**

In the opinion of Soon Teck Kong, Manager Transport Network, acting as the Council's Traffic Engineer, the proposed closures subject to the conditions below, if implemented according to the plans provided, will minimise the duration of the traffic impacts, mitigate issues of local access and address public safety concerns. However, the Council reserves the right to modify this opinion at any time. If, in the opinion of the Council, the closure may or does impede traffic unreasonably, any approval granted by the Regulatory Processes Committee may be revoked and the event organiser may be required to open the road at the direction of a suitably qualified Council officer in charge of traffic.

The key features of the Temporary Road Closures will include a dedicated area for drop off and pick up in Bunny Street before and after Stadium event. The two-hour duration for the road closures along parts of Thorndon Quay and Featherston Street will also allow the safe egress of Stadium Patrons after the event and minimise the disruption to traffic flows and local access.

Conditions:

- The event organiser is to publicly notify the event via letter drop, local newspaper advertisement, advanced signage and media releases.

- The event organiser is to ensure that the emergency services (Police, Fire and Ambulance Services) have been consulted with and that the Traffic Management Plan includes all of their specific requirements.
- The event organiser is to ensure that the event is approved by the emergency services (Police, Fire and Ambulance Services) and subject to their conditions of approval.
- The event organiser is to ensure that the affected property owners and businesses along the road closure are consulted with.
- The event organiser is to provide marshals at all road closure ends to ensure that public safety (interaction of traffic and spectators) is not compromised.
- Detour routes are to be provided and clearly signed during the road closure period.
- The event organiser is to work with the public transport operators to provide access for public transport services.
- The event organiser is to provide further details of the Traffic Management Plan to Council for approval prior to the event.
- The event organiser is to provide Variable Message Signs at major routes to advise drivers of these road closures in, particular routes from the North along the Motorway and Aotea Quay.
- The after event road closures are not to be closed any earlier than 1 hour prior to the end of each match to retain transport network accessibility and minimise public inconvenience.

Signed:  .....

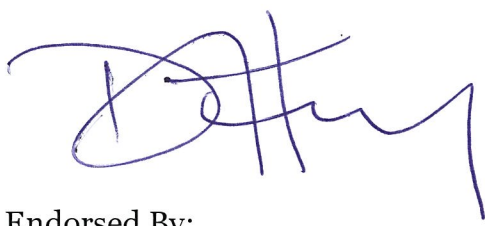
Soon Teck Kong  
 Manager Transport Network

## ATTACHMENTS

- Copy of proposal notice from the newspaper
- Map of proposed closure

Prepared By:  .....

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Endorsed By: .....

Derek Fry  
 Director,  
 Rugby World Cup

