

# **Construction of Transmission Gully Highway Bill**

Member's Bill

## **Explanatory note**

For many years traffic access and egress to and from Wellington to the north has been hampered by the inadequacy of the existing State Highway One.

It is widely recognised as a threat to public safety, both because of the high number of road accidents and more than 20 fatalities that have occurred on it over the last few years, and also because of its lifeline status in the event of a major earthquake in Wellington.

The Transmission Gully Highway has been mooted as an alternative since 1939 but for a variety of reasons it has not yet received funding approval to enable its construction.

This bill proposes a mechanism by which the project can be advanced and sets a time limit of a maximum of six years from the date of enactment for the construction of the Transmission Gully Highway.

It provides for the establishment of a special Commissioner with particular functions to oversee the planning, funding and development of the Highway, in consultation with the Government, the Wellington regional Members of Parliament and local and regional authorities.

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*Hon Peter Dunne*

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**The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:**

- 1 Title**  
This Act is the Construction of Transmission Gully Highway Act **2000**.
- 2 Commencement** 5  
This Act comes into force on the day after the date on which it receives the Royal assent.
- 3 Purpose** 10  
The purpose of this Act is to provide for the development and construction of the Transmission Gully Highway north of Wellington, including the appointment of a Commissioner and the method by which the capital development costs of the project are to be met.
- 4 Interpretation** 15  
The following definitions apply wherever they appear throughout this Act:  
**Commissioner** means the Transmission Gully Commissioner appointed under **section 4**  
**Wellington District and City Councils** means the Wellington City Council, the Hutt City Council, the Upper Hutt City 20

Council, the Porirua City Council, and the Kapiti District Council

**Minister** means the Minister of Transport

**Regional Mayors** means the Mayors of Wellington, Porirua, Hutt, and Upper Hutt cities, and Kapiti district 5

**Transmission Gully** means the geographical area known as Transmission Gully

**Wellington Regional Members of Parliament** means the Members of Parliament for the time being for the electorates of Rimutaka, Hutt South, Ohariu Belmont, Mana, Wellington Central, Otaki, and Rongotai. 10

## 5 **Transmission Gully Commissioner to be Appointed**

- (1) Within 30 days of the commencement of this Act the Governor-General in Council must, on the recommendation of the Minister, appoint for a term of 3 years a suitably qualified person to be Transmission Gully Commissioner. 15
- (2) The Commissioner is eligible for reappointment for a further term of 3 years, at the conclusion of which the position is abolished.
- (3) The Commissioner must be paid appropriate salary and administration expenses as approved by the Minister in accordance with the relevant provisions of the State Sector Act 1988, with these costs to be met on a pro rata basis by Transit New Zealand, the Wellington City Council, the Porirua City Council, the Hutt City Council, the Upper Hutt City Council, and the Kapiti District Council. 20 25

## 6 **Functions of the Commissioner**

The Commissioner has the following functions:

- (a) to develop a plan for the construction of the Transmission Gully Highway, including a capital expenditure budget for the project, to be funded on a pro rata basis by Transfund, the Wellington District and City Councils, and, if necessary, a system of user tolls on the highway once completed: 30
- (b) to submit the plan developed under **paragraph (a)** to the Minister for approval: 35
- (c) subsequent to the Minister's approval of the plan referred to in **paragraph (a)**, to then take all necessary

steps, including the appointment of contractors, and obtaining all necessary consents under the Resource Management Act 1991, to ensure the commencement of construction of the Transmission Gully Highway by 1 January 2001:

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(d) to oversee the project from its commencement through to its completion:

(e) to submit an annual report and audited statement of accounts for the project and the activities of the Commissioner to the Minister, the Regional Mayors, and the Wellington Regional Members of Parliament.

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