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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$2.8b for Tauriko is key for NZ's supply chain

Tauranga Business Chamber and Waikato Chamber of Commerce are celebrating the endorsement today of key transport upgrades to the Tauriko area.

Upgrades to State Highways 29, 29A and 36 were formally endorsed by Tauranga City, Western Bay of Plenty and Bay of Plenty Regional councils today.

Tauranga Business Chamber CEO, Matt Cowley, says this is a major milestone in securing vital improvements for New Zealand's supply chain.

"The Hamilton-to-Tauranga transport corridor is critical to unlocking the Golden Triangle's potential, which contains half of New Zealand's population and GDP.

"It's crucial for New Zealand's economic prosperity that this corridor is as efficient as possible.

"We commend the councils, and Waka Kotahi, for their work on this project to date. However, we believe the future demands on the Hamilton-Tauranga corridor will require the project to be finished in the 2030s, not the 2040s, as the business case currently suggests.

Waikato Chamber of Commerce CEO, Don Good, says the benefits of this project will extend far wider than Tauranga.

"The Waikato and Bay of Plenty economies are intrinsically linked, and it's fantastic to see the endorsement of these upgrades today.

"This work further prioritises the need to upgrade the deadly SH29/SH1 Piarere intersection, with a view to extending the Waikato Expressway through to the Port of Tauranga."

Ends

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