

Q&As on electrification of Auckland's rail network between Papakura and Pukekohe

These questions are a representative overview of those received during on-line presentations by KiwiRail, Supporting Growth and Auckland Transport on Thursday 18 and Saturday 20 February 2021. During each session organisations shared plans for extending electric train service and planned new stations. For the Supporting growth presentation visit: <https://www.supportinggrowth.govt.nz/have-your-say/south/>

About the electrification works

What stage is the electrification works at?

This project is already well underway. Teams have been working on designs for some time, and preliminary works are happening on the rail network. We are progressing surveys, ground investigations and design. As part of the project the track will be resignalled and work is currently underway to install ducts for this as our also contractor builds construction access tracks.

Why is most works happening during the day?

We are fortunate enough to have enough width on the rail network to be able to do a significant amount of work during day while trains are running. This reduces overall disturbance to commuters and those living and working next to the tracks. We will need to close the line to trains when we work on the tracks and close to trains. We do this during quieter periods such as public holidays and weekends.

Is all the work happening in the rail corridor?

The majority of work such as building the overheads masts to power the trains and new signalling installation is happening in the rail corridor.

What is happening to the level crossings?

Public level crossings will get safety upgrades. We will also run a public safety campaign to educate people about the changes that come with an electrified track, and what it means for them.

Pukekohe station redevelopment

Why are the existing platforms being extended south?

The Stadium Drive overbridge to the north of the station is a key constraint. The bridge constrains the geometry of the approach tracks to the station which in turn influences the platform location. The overbridge also constrains the overhead line, that supplies electricity to the trains, which also influences the platform location.

Is the footbridge staying where it is or moving?

The main footbridge remains where it is. The pedestrian footbridge at the southern end is being removed.

Will the public have a say on what the redeveloped station looks like?

Auckland Transport is the organisation responsible for passenger facilities such as stations, which are designed to meet region-wide network standards. KiwiRail is working with Auckland Transport on the designs of the redeveloped station. A key feature of the station is the recently opened pedestrian bridge and any changes will be developed to be in keeping with this design.

Are Pukekohe stations platforms going to be built for nine-car initially?

The platforms will be built for six-car trains only, but are being designed so they can be extended when passenger demands requires longer trains.

What will the new Pukekohe train station look like and what facilities will it have?

Auckland Transport is responsible for design standards of passenger facilities. Visit at.govt.nz to find out more.

Will electric trains be parked overnight at Pukekohe station?

Yes, as Pukekohe is a terminal station, it will include space for electric trains to be stabled overnight or during off peak periods.

Future plans and changes on the rail network

Are there plans to have more tracks on Auckland's network?

Expected growth in both commuter and freight traffic on the rail network means that KiwiRail is looking to build stretches of third and fourth main at critical points on the rail network. Find out more: <https://www.supportinggrowth.govt.nz/growth-areas/south/>

How will services change once electrification is complete?

Auckland Transport is the organisation responsible for planning and operating public transport in the Auckland region. Find out more at.govt.nz. Freight trains will continue as they currently are.