

Tertiary Education Report: Final agreement between Auckland University of Technology and Auckland Transport for the Airport to Botany Bus Rapid Transit (A2B) project

Date:	12 June 2025	TEC priority:	High
Security level:	In Confidence	Report no:	B-25-00729
		Minister's office No:	

ACTION SOUGHT		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Dr Shane Reti Minister for Universities	note that you as the Minister for Universities holds the designation for Auckland University of Technology's (AUT) South Campus under the Resource Management Act 1991(RMA). note that AUT and Auckland Transport (AT) have agreed on a settlement agreement relating to the Airport to Botany Bus Rapid Transit (A2B) project, to ensure the project can proceed as intended and in accordance with the statutory requirements of the RMA. note you previously agreed to be co-signatory when an agreement between AU and AT was reached. note the parties have now agreed to the final agreement with some minor changes and have sent the agreement to you for your signature. sign the final agreement that has been approved by AUT and AT. forward this report to the Minister for Lands Information for his information on a "no surprises basis."	
Enclosure: Yes/No	Round Robin: Yes/No	

CONTACT FOR TELEPHONE DISCUSSION (IF REQUIRED)

Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Gillian Dudgeon	Deputy Chief Executive, Delivery	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	✓

THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES HAVE SEEN THIS REPORT

☐ DPMC ☐ MPI ☐ ENZ ☐ ERO ☐ MBIE ☐ MoE ☐ MFAT
☐ MPP ☐ MSD ☐ NZQA ☐ NZTE ☒ TEC ☐ TPK ☐ Treasury

Minister's Office to Complete: ☐ Approved ☐ Declined
 ☐ Noted ☐ Needs change
 ☐ Seen ☐ Overtaken by Events
 ☐ See Minister's Notes ☐ Withdrawn

Comments:

Recommendations

Hon Dr Shane Reti, Minister for Universities

It is recommended that you:

1. **note** that you as the Minister for Universities holds the designation for Auckland University of Technology's (AUT) South Campus under the Resource Management Act 1991(RMA).
2. **note** that AUT and Auckland Transport (AT) have agreed on a settlement agreement relating to the Airport to Botany Bus Rapid Transit (A2B) project, to ensure the project can proceed as intended and in accordance with the statutory requirements of the RMA.
3. **note** you previously agreed to be co-signatory when an agreement between AU and AT was reached (B-25-00155 refers).
4. **note** the parties have now agreed to the final agreement with some minor changes and have sent the agreement to you for your signature.
5. **sign** the final agreement that has been approved by AUT and AT.

AGREED / NOT AGREED

6. **agree** that the TEC release this briefing in full.

AGREED / NOT AGREED

7. **forward** this report to the Minister for Land Information for his information.



Gillian Dudgeon

Deputy Chief Executive, Delivery
Tertiary Education Commission

12 June 2025

Hon Dr Shane Reti

Minister for Universities

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Purpose

1. This briefing seeks your signature, as responsible Minister on the settlement agreement between AUT and AT on the A2B project.

Key points for consideration

2. Auckland Transport (AT) together with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi is responsible for the designation, funding, construction and operation of the Airport to Botany Bus Rapid Transit Project (A2B). The A2B project involves a dedicated Bus Rapid Transit Corridor (BRT), centre-running in each direction for the majority of the corridor along Te Irirangi Drive, Great South Road, Ronwood Avenue, Manukau Station Road, Lambie Drive and Puhinui Road to provide a high capacity, frequent and reliable BRT service.
3. The University and AT have undertaken negotiations to develop a clear process and terms between the parties on the development of the A2B project, and its impact on the development and operations of AUT's south campus.
4. You, as responsible Minister, hold a designation over the campus under s177(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and this will take precedence over any subsequent designation obtained by AT for the A2B project. Following advice from the TEC and following a review of the in-principle draft of the settlement, you agreed to be co-signatory on the final agreement.
5. The legal representative has notified TEC that there have been minor amendments to the agreement since February 2025, but the substantive obligations remain the same. The changes include:
 - a. Correcting and clarifying cross referencing
 - b. Introducing a definition for "Directly Adjacent Works" to clarify obligations that apply when AT is undertaking works that are close to, but not inside the AUT property boundary.
6. AT and AUT have signed the updated agreement and are sending you the final version for your approval (your office will be receiving this directly).
7. The TEC considers that agreeing to the settlement agreement put forward will resolve the issue to the satisfaction of all parties and allow the A2B project to progress.