



Future of Transport: regional rail fact sheet

Driving climate change action

Fast, inter-city rail will help reboot urban and regional economies while decarbonising some of our busiest transport routes. It will bring our regions and cities closer together, making it possible for more people to find affordable housing while still being able to easily connect with work, business, friends, and families in the cities.

Stage one: 2022-2027				
Route	Intervention	Travel time	Service level	Cost (\$m)
Auckland to Hamilton	Electrify and upgrade main line to 110km/h	1 hr 54 min	One train every two hours (hourly at peak times)	500
- Extension to Tauranga	Electrify and upgrade main line to 110km/h	3hr 14min (TAU to AKL)	One train every two hours	615
Auckland to Wellington (night train)	Purchase new electric sleeper trains	9hr 20min	One train per day each way	32
Wellington to Palmerston North	Electrify and upgrade main line to 110km/h	1hr 53min	One train every two hours (hourly at peak times)	262
Wellington to Masterton	Electrify and upgrade main line to 110km/h	1hr 13min	One train every two hours (hourly at peak times)	188
Christchurch to Rangiora	Electrify and upgrade main line to 110km/h	27 min	One train every two hours (hourly at peak times)	130
Christchurch to Ashburton	Electrify and upgrade main line to 110km/h	1hr 18min	Three trains per day each way	227
Total cost				1,954

Stage two: 2027-2035				
Route	Intervention	Journey time	Service level	Cost (\$m)
Auckland to Whangārei & Bay of Islands	Electrify and upgrade main line to Whangārei, to 110km/h. Purchase additional dual mode trains to extend service to the Bay of Islands.	3hr 35min	Two trains per day each way	425
Auckland to Hamilton	Higher speed realignments up to 160km/h	1 hr 39min	One train every two hours (hourly at peak times)	1480
	Central Hamilton triple tracking (tunnel and new underground station)	1 hr 39min		520
- Extension to Tauranga	Stage 1: Improve alignment between Waharoa & Tauranga	2 hr 48 min (to AKL)	One train every two hours (hourly at peak times)	225
	Stage 2: Higher speed realignment for Hamilton to Waharoa	2hr 39min (to AKL)		968
- Extension to Rotorua	Electrify and upgrade main line to 110km/h. Includes track reinstatement from Putaruru to Rotorua	3hr 08 min (to AKL)	One train every two hours	737
Wellington to Palmerston North	Higher speed realignments up to 160km/h	1 hr 36min	One train every two hours (hourly at peak)	1692
- Extend to Marton & Whanganui	Electrify and upgrade main line to 110km/h	2hr 40min	One train every two hours	500
- Extend to New Plymouth	Train purchase only (dual mode)	5hr 7min	Three trains per day each way	32
- Extend to Napier	Train purchase only (dual mode)	4hr 15min	Three trains per day each way	32
- Extend to Gisborne	Reinstate the Wairoa to Gisborne line and purchase a dual mode train	7hr 15min	One train per day each way	114
Christchurch to Rangiora	Maintain			
- Extend to Picton	Train purchase only (dual mode)	5hr 21min	Three trains per day each way	48
Christchurch to Ashburton	Higher speed realignments up to 160km/h	46 min	Five trains per day each way	455
- Extend to Timaru & Dunedin	Train purchase only (dual mode)	5 hr 16min	Three trains per day each way	48
Total cost				7,276

Notes: Costs include both infrastructure improvements and procurement of electric trains for some lines to operate at the proposed service levels. Christchurch to Rangiora service assumes four trains operate on the line allowing two hourly services and hourly at peak times.

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