Evaluating whole-of-life carbon emissions

Dr. Anthony Hume (AECOM) Maurice Marquardt (Waka Kotahi) De-carbonising Transport - May 2021





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Setting the scene

Climate Change Mitigation

- Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019
 - Net zero GHG emissions by 2050
- RMA Amendment Act 2020
 - allow local authorities to consider the effects of GHG emissions
- COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020
 - Consent applications must be assessed to whether the project contributes to NZ efforts to mitigate climate change
- GPS 2021 (Climate change 1 of 4 strategic investment priorities)
- Toitū Te Taiao, Our Sustainability Action Plan



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Work to date

For project in the business case & implementation phase

- Sustainability Rating tools (Greenroads and ISCA)
- Resource Efficiency Policy
- Specifications (P47)
- Tools
 - VEPM
 - ISCA materials calculator
- To date there is no standardised approach for development of infrastructure carbon footprints in NZ





What it covers

Climate Change Mitigation

- Construction Emissions
 - Emissions from construction materials (embodied emissions) and construction activities
- Operational Emissions
 - Emissions from operational energy use and maintenance activities
- Enabled Emissions
 - The change in emissions from transportation use resulting from the work
- End-of-life Emissions

• Decommissioning at the end of the service life, including waste in landfill, transport of materials, and recycling of materials.















Construction Emissions

- Construction Materials (Embodied Emissions)
 - Material embodied emissions from extraction and manufacturing
- Transport of Construction Materials
 - Emissions from fuel used to transport materials to site. Generally the 'last-leg' of the journey from supplier to site.
- On-site Fuel Use
 - Predominantly from fuel used for machinery and vehicles (typically diesel) and electricity used for equipment and lighting on site.
- Waste Materials
 - Fuel used to transport waste materials from the site to landfill, recycling, or reuse
 - Waste disposal or recycling of the material.









Operational Emissions

Ongoing Operational Emissions

- Ongoing electricity use e.g. for road lighting and signage
- Ventilation for tunnels.

Maintenance Activity Emissions

- Maintenance and repair of the infrastructure activities.
- Embodied emissions from materials used, transport of maintenance materials, on-site fuel use, and disposal of maintenance waste materials.









Enabled Emissions

Enabled emissions (do minimum)

- The enabled emissions of the transport system at a future time without change to the infrastructure.
- Enabled emissions (option scenario)
 - The enabled emissions of the transport system at a future time with a change to the infrastructure (e.g. the construction of a new road).
- Enabled emissions (change)
 - The difference in enabled emissions of the transport system as a result of the project (i.e. the option scenario minus the do minimum scenario).









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End of Life Emissions

- Decommissioning Activity
 - On-site fuel use for decommissioning and demolition of infrastructure
- Transport of Waste Materials
 - Fuel use for transportation of waste materials away from site
- Waste in Landfill
 - Waste to landfill (predominantly methane)
- Reuse of Waste Materials
 - Transportation and preparation of waste materials for reuse
- Recycling of Waste Materials
 - Recycling processes







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Next steps

- Complete guidance for End-of-life and reporting boundaries still to be developed
- Complete and implement GHG assessment guidance, specifications and tools
- Prepare strategic baseline assessments
- Embed climate change considerations into our business case and investment decision processes
- Engage with industry, stakeholders and partners
- Support projects with their carbon assessments





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Any questions?

environment@nzta.govt.nz