



FILE REF:	
01 JUN 2001	
Telephone (04) 471 9999	
NAME	In Date
S. Macaskill	AM
TO ACTION:	

26 JUN 2001
26 June 2001

Mr Stuart Macaskill
Chairperson
Wellington Regional Council

Dear Stuart,

Tranzrail announced today that it is pulling out of the Bay Express Napier – Wellington passenger route.

The Green Party considers it essential that the passenger service remains and we are making a direct approach the new owners, West Coast Rail and Connex, to discuss the future of the Bay Express.

We believe a joint approach on the issue would be valuable and we are therefore approaching regional tourism organisations, local body leaders and local MPs to support this rail link. I would therefore like to invite you to join me in an approach to the new owners on this issue or to make your own direct representation if a combined initiative does not suit you.

Tranzrail acknowledge that they are not tourism focussed and have not marketed The Bay Express well. I am firmly of the belief that it can be turned into a profitable venture if packaged in the right way and promoted in conjunction with tourism operators and other businesses which benefit from the Bay Express. There is also considerable potential to increase domestic traffic on the route through well targeted pricing.

I look forward to your response to this initiative. Please feel free to fax me on (04) 472 6003 or email me at sue.kedgley@parliament.govt.nz or phone me direct on (04) 470 6728 or 025 270 9088.

Yours sincerely

Sue Kedgley MP