



**Office of Hon Mark Gosche**  
Minister of Transport  
Minister of Housing  
Minister of Pacific Island Affairs  
MP for Maungakiekie

**27 AUG 2001**

Stuart Macaskill  
Chairman  
Wellington Regional Council  
P O Box 11-646  
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr Macaskill

**Formal Proposals to Establish a Public/Private Partnership to Acquire and Operate TranzMetro Wellington Suburban Passenger Rail Services**

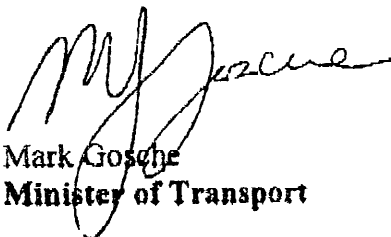
Thank you for your proposals regarding the future of Wellington rail passenger services. Clearly my officials and I will need a little time to consider your proposals now that they have been formally presented in full.

I have, of course, been made aware of the fundamentals of your proposals during our various meetings and I understand that the prevailing legislation prevents you from implementing them. You will appreciate that I cannot, at this stage, give any firm commitment to the change in legislation you are seeking. This will be a matter for my cabinet colleagues and, of course, the Parliament. However, in the interests of allowing you to move forward, I can offer you the following comfort.

The Government is keen to see satisfactory and durable solutions to the rail issues currently confronting us. The Wellington regional rail services are fundamental to the economic and social wellbeing of the community and you are right to consider all possible options to secure their continuity and development. I see no reason why the region and the territorial local authorities should not proceed to a further stage of maturing your proposals on the assumption that the Government will consider promoting any change in legislation on its merits.

Please keep me informed of your progress but in the meantime, I will ask officials to review the documentation you have provided in the context of establishing how Government can assist you in achieving your goals.

Yours sincerely



Mark Gosche  
Minister of Transport