



By email

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Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance
Freepost PO Box 18 888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160
Email: g.robertson@ministers.govt.nz

Hon Michael Wood
Minister of Transport
Freepost PO Box 18 888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160
Email: m.wood@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā kōrua

Support of Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility Detailed Business Case

The Mayors in the Lower North Island of New Zealand are excited to support the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility investment proposal prepared by Greater Wellington Regional Council and Horizons Regional Council. The proposal seeks to significantly improve regional passenger rail service through the investment in a new fleet of 22 four-car tri-mode units and associated infrastructure.

Historically, passenger rail services have been instrumental in the development and success of the greater Wellington region and, consequently, Wellington has the highest proportion of rail users in Aotearoa – this proposed investment seeks to enable the Lower North Island to further enhance this development and success.

The proposed investment will bring significant benefits to each of the territorial local authorities within the greater Wellington and Horizons regions by enhancing well-being through improved connectivity, inclusive access to public transport, improved safety, and decarbonisation of the transport system. The initiative is key to achieving our collective central and local government mode shift and decarbonisation targets.



We see this transport infrastructure investment as the key enabler to unlock access to affordable housing across the Lower North Island, while maintaining connectivity to employment, education, recreation, friends and whānau – which is essential to the continued growth and prosperity of our Lower North Island towns and cities.

In addition, we note the complete alignment of this initiative with the Government’s policy on transport emissions. The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2021-31 priorities the development of “a low carbon transport system that supports emissions reductions while improving safety and inclusive access”. The Ministry for the Environment’s Emissions Reduction Plan, currently being consulted on, sets out a 2050 vision for a “productive, sustainable and inclusive economy” where “transport systems are accessible, affordable and sustainable”. The outcomes of the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility investment proposal will be further decarbonisation of the regional public transport network and a key step towards the strategic goal of achieving an “efficient, accessible and low carbon public transport network”.

The communities of the Lower North Island welcome and encourage the Government’s support of this transformational next step in our regions’ transport infrastructure.

Ngā mihi



Daran Ponter
Chair, Greater Wellington



Rachel Keedwell
Chair, Horizons



Wayne Guppy
Mayor
Upper Hutt City Council



Campbell Barry
Mayor
Hutt City Council



Andy Foster
Mayor
Wellington City Council



Lyn Patterson
Mayor
Masterton District
Council



Greg Lang
Mayor
Carterton District Council



Alex Beijen
Mayor
South Wairarapa District Council



Anita Baker
Mayor
Porirua City Council



K (Guru) Gurunathan
Mayor
Kapiti Coast District
Council



Bernie Wanden
Mayor
Horowhenua District Council



Grant Smith
Mayor
Palmerston North City
Council




Helen Worboys
Mayor
Manawatu District Council



Andy Watson
Mayor
Rangitikei District Council



Tracey Collis
Mayor
Taranua District Council



Hamish McDouall
Mayor
Whanganui District Council



Don Cameron
Mayor
Ruapehu District Council