

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Transport
Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation



TCB25-1545

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Chair
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Dr Rachel Kneedwell
Chair
Horizons Regional Council

Bernie Wanden
Mayor
Horowhenua District Council

Lawrence Kirby
Deputy Mayor
Kapiti Coast District Council

Darrin Apanui
Chair
Wellington Regional Leadership Committee

Adrienne Staples
Chair
Wellington Regional Land Transport Committee

By email to: daran.ponter@gw.govt.nz

Dear all

Thank you for your letter of 17 June 2025 regarding the Ōtaki to North of Levin (Ō2NL) project and the design changes being considered by the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA).

I acknowledge your concerns and the importance of this project to your community. It is a clear objective of the project to deliver a more resilient and efficient highway that will support the region's economic growth.

At its meeting on Thursday 19 June 2025, the NZTA Board confirmed additional funding for the project to ensure it will progress through to construction, including some features from the originally consented concept design. As a result of the Board's decision, the following elements of the project will be reinstated:

- the new highway connection with Tararua Road in Levin, which will be a grade-separated interchange;
- the southern connection, near Taylors Road, will include a southbound onramp, allowing vehicles travelling south on the current SH1 to join the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway north of Ōtaki; and,
- the local road at Manakau Heights will be connected across the new highway via a bridge.

I'm looking forward to the Ō2NL project enabling your councils to deliver the housing growth and development needed for one of New Zealand's fastest growing districts. With the project's scope and funding now confirmed, NZTA will begin construction later this year.

If you would like to discuss this matter directly with NZTA, you are welcome to contact Linda Stewart, Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu), by email to linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz, or by phone on 027 801 6434.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bishop'.

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister of Transport