By email

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Tēnā koutou

Tūhono trains confirmed to connect the Lower North Island

Today I was delighted to join with the Hon Chris Bishop, Minister of Transport and Cr Rachel Keedwell, Chair of Horizons Regional Council to announce the award of the contract for the construction of our new regional trains. Alstom Rail Transportation New Zealand Limited (Alstom) has been selected to deliver this fleet of 18 five-car battery electric multiple unit (BEMU) trains, which will service the Wairarapa and Manawatū lines.

This new fleet of trains will be known as Tūhono — meaning to connect or unite. This name perfectly captures the essence of what these trains represent: stronger connections between people, places, and opportunities across our regions.

This milestone is the result of more than six years of dedicated work, and Greater Wellington is deeply grateful for your support throughout this journey. Your advocacy and partnership have been instrumental in securing Government co-investment, and we could not be more pleased to confirm that it has finally paid off.

Planning is now underway for this service, including station upgrades, passing loops and a new maintenance depot in Masterton. The Tūhono trains will improve travel options for employment, education and healthcare throughout the Lower North Island, reducing road congestion, increasing productivity and supporting regional growth. The new service is expected to operate from 2030.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with you as we bring this vision to life.

Hei konā mai

Daran Ponter
Chair | Heamana

Copy to:
Chief Executives of City and District Councils, and mana whenua iwi, of the Wellington region

Click here for an animation of the new Tūhono trains

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