



By email

20 May 2022

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Tēnā kōrua

Budget 2022: Regional trains for Lower North Island

We are writing to express our surprise and disappointment that the Government has chosen not to contribute funding for a fleet of hybrid electric trains in the lower North Island through Budget 2022.

As expressed in our November 2021 letter to you, we see this proposition as a key enabler to unlock access to affordable housing in our regions, while improving connectivity to employment, education, recreation, friends and whanau.

Further, this investment is completely aligned with Government policy on transport emissions and indeed your sentiment expressed in Budget 2022, “To Invest in the future and address the challenges of climate change”.

Minister, we are encouraged by your retention of half price fares for public transport until 31 August. We endorse permanently retaining this arrangement for Community Services Card holders. It makes an enormous difference to people who rely on our rail network.



To make this a worthwhile investment, however, we need to provide reliable, low-emissions transport services for the increasing number of people living across the lower North Island. We have great confidence in our business case that proposes the purchase of hybrid electric trains, and we thank the Treasury and Waka Kotahi for their assistance in putting it together. We will continue to pursue a commitment from the government to contribute to the \$760 million investment our case recommends.

We are now working against the clock to replace our fleets of 50-year-old regional rail carriages, which will soon reach the end of their working lives. The tender process for new trains must continue unabated so we look forward to engaging with you on finding ways to unlock Waka Kotahi and other funding for procurement.

Ngā mihi



Daran Ponter
Chair, Greater Wellington



Rachel Keedwell
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Mayor
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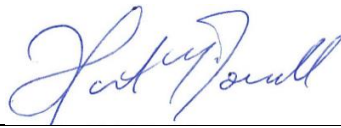
Helen Worboys
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cc:

Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Trevor Mallard
Ginny Andersen MP
Greg O'Connor, MP
Paul Eagle, MP
Barbara Edmonds MP
Tangi Utikere, MP
Kieran McAnulty, MP
Ian McKelvie, MP
Terisa Ngobi, MP
Sir Brian Roche, Chair, Waka Kotahi
Holden, Hohaia, Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust
Callum Katene, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangātira Inc
Andre Baker, Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust
Denise Hapeta, Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki
Hera Edwards, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Trust
Tiraumaera Te Tau, Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc
Di Rump, Muaūpoko Tribal Authority
Rārite Mātaki, Ngāti Raukawa
Danielle Harris, Tanenuirangi Manawatū Inc