Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General
Minister for the Environment
Minister of Transport
Associate Minister of Finance

13 September 2023

Daran Ponter   Tory Whanau
Chair   Mayor of Wellington
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Dear Tory Whanau and Daran Ponter

Thank you for your letter of 19 July 2023 about the need to accelerate components of the Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM) package.

I agree that improvements around the Basin Reserve are a key part of the transformational programme and are a prerequisite for successful delivery of mass rapid transit in Wellington. I consider that this also applies to the second Mt Victoria tunnel and I am interested in options to accelerate this component as well.

The draft Government Policy Statement on land transport 2024/34 (GPS) includes work on improvements around the Basin Reserve, the second Mt Victoria tunnel and mass rapid transit as part of a strategic investment programme. This means that these projects will be given particular consideration in the development of the National Land Transport Programme. The draft GPS also signals that the Government will provide 100 percent of the funding for the LGWM transformational programme for the next three years.

I consider that this is a practical step to provide certainty on funding for the next phase of LGWM, noting the draft GPS is subject to public consultation and further review by Cabinet. It will also support you as you prepare for the development of, and consultation on, the next Long Term Plan.

I note that the Natural and Built Environment Act has a fast-tracking consenting pathway built into it for key infrastructure projects.

In addition, when we next meet I would like to talk with you about the steps we might take to ensure that the LGWM governance structure is fit for purpose, enables these important projects to move ahead with greater speed and clarity and ensures that we can deliver on the goals we are setting out in the draft GPS.

Yours sincerely

Hon David Parker
Minister of Transport