

20 June 2024

Daran Ponter
Chair, Greater Wellington Regional Council

Kia ora Daran,

As you will be aware the Wellington City Council (WCC) has voted to sell their 34% shareholding in Wellington Airport.

While I understand the challenging financial position of Wellington City Council (like many Councils across New Zealand), we would be remiss as a region not to fully explore the future of Wellington Airport as a strategic asset of regional significance and undertake an in-depth analysis of retaining public ownership.

A more thorough process could have engaged the wider region on options of retaining shares in public ownership regionally, as well as freeing up cash for Wellington City Council to assist with their financial challenges.

Given the regional significance of Wellington Airport — I believe we have an obligation to explore all options to retain the shares in public ownership. Once the shares are sold, they will be gone from public ownership and influence forever.

Logically, it makes sense for the Greater Wellington Regional Council to take the lead on what regional ownership of the shares could look like. I understand that regional councillors have already met on this and that the Chief Executive and officers are undertaking a desktop exercise on the shares issue.

I am willing to work alongside you in exploring all options that would retain public ownership in the airport shares.

As a next step, I suggest we ask to meet with WCC's Mayor and Chief Executive as soon as possible, and I will write to Mayor Anita Baker as the Mayoral Forum Chair to put this matter on the agenda for our next meeting.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Ngā mihi,



Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt