

By email

6 November 2024

Simon Bridges
Chair – NZTA Board
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Tena koe Simon

You will be aware that a hikoi is planned to arrive in the Wellington region on Tuesday 19 November, with the intention of activity and korero on the Treaty Principles Bill on Parliament's grounds.

Taranaki Whānui, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council seek that the hikoi is safe and mana enhancing to Wellington city, mana whenua and Aotearoa New Zealand.

It is difficult to estimate the number of hikoi members at this stage. While we understand that the hikoi organisers are carefully managing the event, both councils and mana whenua are aware of the significant impact on Wellington city if many thousands of hikoi members opt to enter the city, and particularly the area neighbouring the Parliamentary precinct, by motor vehicle.

With the possibility of a large number of people coming to Wellington city, Greater Wellington Regional Council is considering the levers we have for reducing congestion and supporting the safe movement of people.

In anticipation of a large hikoi, with the attendant congestion and safety issues that could pose, we seek Waka Kotahi's favourable consideration to financially supporting the provision of free public transport on the day the hikoi (at this stage 19 November) and additional services, where practical, to ease the impact.

Greater Wellington Regional Council will keep in close contact with your officers as further details become clearer about the hikoi and associated events, which will enable us to firm up our plans and determine whether free public transport needs to be part of the solution for successfully managing large volumes of people associated with the hikoi.

As an advance warning please understand that if passenger volumes are high during this period, particularly during peak hours, Metlink may reach its limits in relation to moving people safely.

We look forward to your response.

Ngā mihi



Daran Ponter
Chair
Greater Wellington Regional Council



Tory Whanau
Mayor
Wellington City Council



Vicki Hollywell
General Manager
Hikoikoi Management Limited



Callum Katene
Chair
Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira



Liz Mellish
Chairman
Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust



Anaru Smiler
Chairman
Wellington Tenths Trust

Cc: Prime Minister, Hon Christopher Luxon
Deputy Prime Minister, Rt Hon Winston Peters
Speaker of the House, Rt Hon Gerry Brownlee
Minister for the Public Service, Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Transport, Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Police, Hon Mark Mitchell
Minister for Māori Crown Relations and Minister for Māori Development, Hon Tama Potaka
Members of Parliament, Wellington Region
Brett Gliddon, CEO, Waka Kotahi
Mayors of Wellington, Porirua, Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils, and Kapiti Coast, Horowhenua and Tararua District Councils