



**Office of Hon Pete Hodgson
MP for Dunedin North**

Minister of Energy
Minister of Transport
Minister of Research, Science and Technology
Minister for Crown Research Institutes

Associate Minister for Industry
and Regional Development
Convenor, Ministerial Group on Climate Change

Wellington Regional Council
06 MAY 2004

5 May 2004

Margaret Shields
Chair
Greater Wellington – The Regional Council
PO Box 11646
WELLINGTON

Fax: (04) 385-6960

Dear Margaret

I am writing to you, with the support of Hon Michael Cullen, Minister of Finance, and the Wellington Labour MPs, to invite the Wellington Regional Council to begin participation in a dialogue with central government on transport issues in the Wellington region.

You will be aware that the government has increased land transport funding in the Wellington Region since 1999/00, most recently with the announcement of an additional \$222 million from the December 2003 "Investing for Growth" package. Equally, central government is very much aware of the Wellington Regional Council's increased commitment to the funding and development of various land transport projects in the region over the coming years.

Accordingly, we believe the time is right for both parties to discuss the future development of an integrated and multi-modal transport system to meet the needs of all those in the Wellington region.

As we see it, issues for possible discussion could include:

- Integrated transport policy for the Wellington region (linkages between the New Zealand Transport Strategy and the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy)
- Road congestion in the region
- Transmission Gully
- Provision of adequate Rail rolling stock
- Rail track speeds
- Western Line Upgrades
- Future development of passenger transport services
- Park and Ride Facilities
- Integration of freight and metro services
- Demand management initiatives

Parliament Buildings, Wellington, New Zealand. Telephone: (04) 470 6558. Facsimile: (04) 495 8449

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FRONTIER PETE HODGSON

+64-4-4958449

T-558 P. 02/02 F-555

You are meeting me on Monday 10th May to discuss various rail, road and passenger transport issues pertaining to the Wellington region. A Senior Advisor from the Office of the Minister of Finance will also be present.

As we see it, this meeting is the start of an ongoing dialogue between central and local government on the regions transport needs. Future meetings could include officials from Treasury and Transport, as well as representatives from Track Co, Transfund, Transit and the Mayoral Forum, as appropriate.

Kind regards



Pete Hodgson
Minister of Transport