

Report 08.568  
Date 27 July 2008  
File WRS/09/01/01

Committee Wellington Regional Strategy  
Author Jane Davis Divisional Manager

## Regional Freight Transport

### 1. Purpose

To update the Committee on recent policy announcements relating to freight transport, and to provide the Committee with information on rail and port activities in the region.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Background

One of the outcomes of the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) is “Connected Community”. In the context of the WRS this means:

*“Our connections and access are efficient, quick and easy – locally, nationally and internationally. Our communication networks, air and sea ports, roads and public transport systems are world class and enable us to link well with others, both within and outside the region.” (p2 WRS)*

The recent Government announcement that it is to buy back railway operations from Toll Holdings Ltd, and the recently released “Sea Change” have relevance to the WRS and how freight may be moved in the future.

**David Jackson**, from Kiwi Rail, will present his views on the role of rail for freight movement to the committee.

The Chief Executive of CentrePort, **Liz Ward**, will make a presentation to the Committee on the activities of CentrePort.

## 4. Sea Change Strategy

In May 2008 the Government launched its strategy for domestic sea freight. Entitled “*Sea Change, Transforming Coastal Shipping in New Zealand*” the strategy seeks to effectively double domestic freight transported by sea. By 2040 the target is for at least 30% of all inter-regional domestic freight to be carried by sea.

A copy of the Sea Change Strategy is in **Attachment 1**. The document can also be found at:

<http://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Images/NewFolder-2/Sea-Change-2008.pdf>

Five initiatives support this target:

1. Providing a visible focal point for sea freight. This is to be achieved through the establishment of a Seafreight Development Unit within the Ministry of Transport.
2. Improved access to funding.
3. Information gathering.
4. Workforce initiatives.
5. Policy development.

Each of these initiatives are discussed in the strategy document.

Officers will work with officials within the Seafreight Development Unit to advocate for the interests of the Wellington Region.

## 5. Communication

No matters in this report require communicating.

## 6. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

**Jane Davis**  
Divisional Manager

**David Benham**  
Chief Executive

**Attachment 1: Sea Change, Transforming Coastal Shipping in New Zealand**