

# Hon Michael Wood

MP for Mt Roskill

Minister of Immigration

Minister of Transport

Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety



Daran Ponter

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Tēnā koe Daran

Thank you for the letter dated 9 August 2022 and accompanying summary of the Wellington Rail Programme Business Case sent to Ministers Robertson, Shaw and myself. I am responding as the issues you raised relate to my responsibilities as Minister of Transport.

As you'll be aware, the New Zealand Rail Plan outlines the Government's vision and investment priorities for rail and the significant changes needed to strengthen rail in our transport system. The Government's rail investment priorities centre on restoring a resilient, reliable and safe rail network for New Zealand over the next decade.

Increasing the use of lower-emission transport options, including rail, is an important step in the Government's response to the climate emergency. This will also help to achieve the Government's objectives of net zero emissions by 2050. By moving more people onto rail, our roads will also be less congested and safer.

I have shared the Wellington Rail Programme Business Case with my officials at the Ministry of Transport. I look forward to receiving advice from the Ministry and Waka Kotahi on how it fits with the New Zealand Rail Plan and the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2021/2022–2030/31. I also look forward to meeting again on 6 September 2022 to discuss the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM) proposal, as we work towards consideration through Budget 2023.

Thank you again for writing.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Michael Wood  
Minister of Transport

*Daran - apologies for late formal reply on this one. Look forward to discussing further in 2023.*

*Michael*