

19 July 2023

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Tēnā Koe Minister

## **Accelerating implementation of Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM)**

Further to a letter to the Minister of Transport in December 2021 about accelerating components of **Let's Get Wellington Moving** we are getting to the point where we need decisive action from you to fast track components of the Let's Get Wellington Moving Programme.

The Programme is starting to move out of the planning phase with major development works to start soon on the Golden Mile and Thorndon Quay, and bus priority works in many parts of the city.

The Detailed Business Case for the Transformational Projects is due to be delivered in late 2024. The Transformational Projects are the Strategic Highway Improvements (tunnels and Basin Reserve) and Mass Rapid Transport.

The Transformational Projects have a long planning phase that at the current pace will not see spades in the ground until 2028. Wellington cannot wait that long. We need the government to fast-track the transformation initiatives by bringing forward at least one element of the Transformational Programme through a fast-tracked design and approval process (i.e., lift it out of the current detailed business case phase and put a rocket under it!).

Our view is that the Basin Reserve improvements, including the extension of the Arras Tunnel and related grade separation is the element that needs to be fast-tracked. The Basin Reserve improvements essentially stand at the heart of the other two initiatives (Mass Rapid Transit and the Mt Vic tunnel). Fast tracking is likely to be greatly assist by providing empowering legislation for all three transformation projects, as was the case for the build of the Arras Tunnel.

Wellington simply can't wait until 2028 for these Projects to start. The Basin Reserve stands at the heart of the Transformational Programme – but needs to be empowered to move faster – much faster.

We are more than happy to do a site visit to the Basin Reserve so that you can better appreciate the benefits that this project will provide and how it links to the tunnel and mass rapid transit elements of work.

We look forward to your response on the practical steps the government can take.

Nāku noa, nā



**Daran Ponter**  
Chair  
Greater Wellington Regional Council



**Tory Whanau**  
Mayor  
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