

MINO-418 LGWM – New Zealand Infrastructure Commission | Te Waihanga Update

23 June 2022

This note provides the Minister's Office with an update on the independent review of the Economics and Carbon Technical Reports carried out by Te Waihanga.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

The Chair of the LGWM Board requested that Te Waihanga review the Economics Technical Report and the Carbon Technical Report (that inform the LGWM Preferred Programme Option Report).

The outcome of this exercise was a memo from Te Waihanga advising that its preferred option was Option 4 and that they would like congestion pricing to be a core part of the programme – both outside the scope of the exercise commissioned. LGWM's view is that the memo is based on incomplete information and doesn't acknowledge other important criteria such as urban intensification. Unfortunately, it doesn't appear to take into consideration the recommendations of both the Board and the advice being presented to Cabinet.

An Official Information Act request has been made for a copy of the memo therefore, it is likely to soon be made public. This could cause some debate over whether the right choice has been made on route/mode.

The Programme intends to send a formal response to Te Waihanga setting out why/if they disagree and that most of the issues raised would be canvassed during the detailed business case phase. This would be released alongside the memo and should mitigate the risk caused by the memo itself.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982