



NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
WAKA KOTAHI

21 December 2012

Celia Wade-Brown
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NATIONAL OFFICE

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Dear Celia

We note the Council's decision to further explore alternative transport solutions around the Basin Reserve, in order to satisfy itself that all potential options have been fully explored before we proceed with the Board of Inquiry process for the proposed bridge.

Grade separation at the Basin Reserve is the circuit breaker to unlocking efficiencies across all transport modes in Wellington. We have worked extensively with many stakeholders and considered all possible options for achieving this separation and managing the transport flows at this point, and have concluded that a bridge is the most effective and affordable solution. Without the Basin Bridge, other transport projects in the city projects simply would not work as effectively. This would make it hard for us to justify funding them in the future.

We too want the most effective outcome for Wellington and the wider region. While it is our view that this matter has already been extensively analysed and debated, we accept your Council's desire to take a "last look" at options before we proceed to the next stage.

It is important that we resolve this issue promptly. Given the Basin's pivotal role in the Wellington transport network, the status quo is not an option. NZTA has a duty to act in the interests of the transport system as a whole and to ensure that we achieve value for money for taxpayers. This road is part of the strategic state highway system that is not only important for Wellington, but also for the region and the country. That is what guides our approach. Wellington City Council, NZTA and Greater Wellington Regional Council are also partners in delivering this solution, and need to make progress on this matter for the city and for the wider region.

To this end, we would like to extend an invitation to you to meet with the Board of the NZ Transport Agency at its scheduled meeting on the 1st March 2013. This would be to discuss the outcome of your exploration of alternative transport solutions around the Basin Reserve. This discussion will be greatly assisted if you can share your analysis with my staff sufficiently well in advance of this meeting.

After considering your views the Board will be in a position to determine whether or not there is another option that will deliver the grade separation, traffic flow efficiencies and modal integration that are required and is affordable.

If no effective and affordable options are identified, the Board would look forward to your support for the Basin Reserve bridge in the Board of Inquiry processes that lie ahead.

Finally, as you are aware, NZTA Board Chairman Chris Moller has a conflict of interest with respect to the Basin Reserve. Chris will not be present for any discussions relating to this matter, and Patsy Reddy, NZTA Deputy Chair will take his place.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Dangerfield', written in a cursive style.

Geoff Dangerfield
Chief Executive

cc: Garry Poole
Chief Executive
Wellington City Council