

Kath McIndoe

From: Chris Mackenzie [Chris.Mackenzie@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 June 2007 11:40 a.m.
To: David George; William Peet
Subject: Wellington Rail

Attachments: 50546.pdf



50546.pdf (229 KB)

Copy of letter sent to Peter Dunne and Sue Kedgley this morning.

Regards

Chris

(Chris Mackenzie
Senior Advisor
Deputy Prime Minister's Office
(04) 471 9935 or (021) 799 499)

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Office of Hon Dr Michael Cullen

Deputy Prime Minister

Attorney-General

Minister of Finance

Minister for Tertiary Education

Leader of the House of Representatives

Ms Sue Kedgley MP
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Sue,

WELLINGTON AREA RAIL PROJECT FUNDING

Following recent media comments on the rail package for Wellington, I thought that I should spell out for you what is covered in the package, which is a combination of the Budget announcement and that made in May by the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The announcements provide funding for the:

Duplication of the line between McKays Crossing and the south end of the Waikanae bridges:

- o New stations (which will be funded separately through GWRC) at Raumati and Otaihanga
- o Redesign of track layout at Paraparaumu station

The exact location of stations and the northern end point of duplication are subject to detailed design and operational modelling;

Electrification of the duplicated sections and through to the Waikanae station;

Increased rail capacity between Kaiwharawhara and Wellington station that will improve the flow for both freight and passenger trains in this congested area;

Clearance improvements to the Johnsonville line tunnels and platforms to allow Ganz Mavag and new Electric rolling stock to use the line thus allowing for the retirement of the remaining English Electric Units;

Some essential deferred maintenance and renewals work to ensure reliability including:

- o Power systems on all lines
- o Signalling on all lines
- o Traction system (including poles) on all lines;

Duplicating some of the single track between Pukerua Bay and Paekakariki known as "North-South Junction". Work will include:

- o Moving the northern end of the single line (North Junction) south to the northern end of Tunnel 6
- o Moving the southern end of the single line (South Junction) to the southern end of Tunnel 3;

Minor projects:

- o Land purchase
- o Overrun protection enhancements
- o Various other works of a minor nature;

Subject to further investigation and funding:

- o Completing the double tracking of the "North-South Junction"
- o Significant upgrading of the existing infrastructure on all lines.

My office is working with ONTRACK, Greater Wellington, Treasury, Transport and Land Transport NZ to finalise the funding and construction timetable to ensure that the work is carried out in a timely and efficient manner.

None of the above work to be carried out by ONTRACK will be covered by the proposed Regional Fuel Tax as they are seen as part of the core rail upgrade which have been funded through normal Crown and Regional funding mechanisms.

The region may however decide to recommend a Regional Fuel Tax to cover capital projects such as station upgrades, on time systems or integrated ticketing.

The Ministry of Transport and Treasury will be reporting back to Ministers on the Regional Fuel Tax following consultation with regions.

I am confident that these works will enable ONTRACK to deliver a higher capacity and more reliable network allowing Greater Wellington to schedule services at 15-minute intervals, whilst also providing the opportunity for the essential freight services to grow.

In addition to the above, the Crown has also increased the interest free loan to Greater Wellington to enable it to carry out a basic refurbishment of 5 English Electric units, purchase 6 extra English carriages and reactivate 3 Electric EO locomotives to provide extra capacity to enable the existing Ganz Mavag units to be refurbished to extend their life and attractiveness. At the conclusion of the refurbishment, the carriages will become available for extra Masterton carriages to cover increased patronage.

The Government believes that investment in passenger transport, including rail, is important and contributes to improving the environment while reducing the need for large expansions of the roading network.

Yours sincerely



Hon Dr Michael Cullen
Minister of Finance

CC: Hon Annette King MP
Hon M Hobbs MP
Hon Luamanuvao Winnie Labini MP
Hon Trevor Mallard MP
Hon Paul Swain MP
Darren Hughes MP
Charles Chauvel MP
Cam Moore Chair ONTRACK
Ian Buchanan Chair Greater Wellington
David George Chief Executive ONTRACK
David Benham Chief Executive Greater Wellington
John Whitehead Secretary to the Treasury
Alan Thompson Chief Executive Ministry of Transport