

By email

24 March 2025

Hon Simon Bridges
Chair
NZ Transport Agency/ Waka Kotahi
boardsecretariat@nzta.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Simon

Riverlink/ Melling Transport improvements

I am pleased to inform you that last week Greater Wellington Regional Council unanimously agreed that Greater Wellington should enter into the Relationship Agreement, the Commercial Delivery Agreement and the GW Environment Design Review letter of agreement for Te Awa Kairangi (Riverlink). This is one of the most important and complex programmes of work ever undertaken in the Wellington region, and I am delighted that soon we will be able to finalise negotiations and get the programme fully underway.

Melling Station building

You will be aware that the negotiation process and agreements themselves reflect a shared drive for efficiencies, given the significant cost pressures on all the partners.

At our meeting, we discussed the future of the old Melling Station building, and the resource consent condition that it be relocated to the new railway station site. We understand that this condition was imposed to reflect the building's historic status of the in the Hutt City Council District Plan at the time of consent application.

Since then, the building's historic status has been removed, thus removing any heritage rationale to preserve it. Cost pressures, however, remain front of mind for all parties to Riverlink. We believe it would be a good time to review the cost benefit of moving, strengthening, and adapting the current structure rather than demolishing and rebuilding on the platform to ensure the solution remains value-for-money. Greater Wellington is committed to reinstating the Melling service as soon as practicable and we see the seamless development of a user-friendly station facility as an essential aspect of that outcome.

I am formally requesting on behalf of Council that NZTA reviews its plan to include the movement of the existing Melling Station building in its delivery of the new facilities at Melling Railway Station to ensure ongoing cost efficiency.

I can assure NZTA of Greater Wellington's keen interest in solutions that may deliver markedly better customer and transport outcomes for less cost.

I trust that the NZTA Board will formally consider this request and look forward to your response.

Ngā mihi



Daran Ponter
Chair

Copy: Hon Chris Bishop, Minister of Transport
Campbell Barry, Mayor, Hutt City Council