

26 January 2023

Office of the Chairperson
100 Cuba Street
PO Box 11646
Wellington
T 04 384 5708
www.gw.govt.nz

Chris Bishop
Member of Parliament
chris.bishop@parliament.govt.nz

Tory Whanau
Mayor of Wellington
tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Chris,

Thank you for writing us about East by West's recent suspension of the ferry service between Days Bay and Seatoun. As announced on the East by West Ferries [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/eastbywestferries) (www.facebook.com/eastbywestferries), we understand that, after careful consideration, the decision was made to suspend the Days Bay–Seatoun service for a variety of operational reasons. These reasons include increased operating costs; anticipated changes to passenger volume in analysing patronage before and after the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic; and the logistics of scheduling and moving all boats within the ferry timetable—only one ferry, of the three available vessels, works with Seatoun Wharf.

We appreciate the questions you have raised around the decision, and have provided the responses below to the questions related to Greater Wellington Regional Council.

- **Was there a commitment by East by West to resume the service to Seatoun from Days Bay once the wharf upgrade was done?**

East by West were considering resumption of the service upon completion of the wharf upgrade. However, the Seatoun leg of this specific ferry route is not part of the current contracted services between Metlink and East by West, and hence the decision to reinstate the service or not resides with East by West. East by West made their decision following an assessment subsequent to the completion of the wharf upgrade.

- **If there was no commitment, why did the City Council push ahead with an upgrade to Seatoun Wharf?** Please refer to Wellington City Council for a response to this question.

- **What analysis did the City Council undertake when making the decision to upgrade the wharf vs other options, and how did the ferry service factor into that analysis?** Please refer to Wellington City Council for the response to this question.
- **As I understand it, the Seatoun-Days Bay service was a commercial service offered by East by West which did not receive subsidies from Metlink (unlike Days Bay to Queens Wharf). Has the Regional Council considered adding a Days Bay-Seatoun route to the public transport network?**

Greater Wellington Regional Council is not presently considering the Days Bay–Seatoun route as currently critical to the public transport network, due to very low passenger demand for this service. In the meantime, East by West are actively exploring possibilities to offset inconvenience caused by the suspension of the Days Bay–Seatoun service. They are currently investigating the possibility of standing up a commuter service between Seatoun and Queens Wharf, as well as exploring opportunities to stop in Shelly Bay to provide an alternative to the Days Bay–Seatoun service.

We remain always interested in working with East by West to explore viable service options and minimise disruptions.

Ngā mihi



Daran Ponter
Chair