



19 May 2023

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Hon Michael Wood  
Minister of Transport  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Hon Grant Robertson  
Minister of Finance  
Minister of Infrastructure  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Tēna korua Ministers

## **Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM) – Funding through Budget 2023**

On behalf of our communities, we would like to thank you for your leadership and support in securing funding for the fleet of hybrid electric trains for the lower North Island, and associated rail network infrastructure upgrades. We are delighted that the government has recognised the need to ensure passenger rail service continuity and future-proof the Wairarapa and Manawatū lines.

In these constrained times, we are confident in the value of this investment in critical transport infrastructure. It is clearly an important step toward achieving twin objectives of a resilient transport network and reduced transport emissions. This investment will also reduce congestion and improve safety, transport access and equity and enable growth and prosperity across our regions.

Greater Wellington and Horizons are re-establishing our multi-party governance structure (including KiwiRail) and project team and are about to hit the ground running now that we have full Government funding support. We are shortly to post a Request for Tender (RFT) on GETS to obtain the professional services required to support the procurement of the trains.

We look forward to working with Ministry of Transport officials on funding arrangements and to work through key aspects, especially:

- a. the rolling stock being procured and designed to enable future trains to be easily purchased for other passenger rail services around New Zealand
- b. any desired approach to the ownership model for Ōtaki and Levin Railway Stations which are currently owned by Land Information New Zealand and sit within the Treaty settlement land bank.

Ngā mihi



**Daran Ponter**  
Chair  
Greater Wellington



**Rachel Keedwell**  
Chair  
Horizons Regional Council

CC: Mayors and Members of Parliament of the Wellington and Horizons regions  
Chairs of all iwi in Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui