

By e-mail

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Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister for Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Hon Dr David Clark
Minister for State-Owned
Enterprises
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēnā koutou Ministers

Wellington Ferry Terminal

As you will be aware, KiwiRail has now agreed to refocus on locating the new ferry terminal at Kaiwharawhara. This significant change of direction is unanimously supported by the key members of the Future Ports Forum – Greater Wellington Regional Council (**GW**), Wellington City Council, and CentrePort. This decision paves the way for the parties to start planning in earnest for the development of the Kaiwharawhara site in anticipation of the new rail ferries.

GW believes that it is incumbent upon ourselves, the Government, and Wellington City Council to now commence the implementation of the new ferry terminal at Kaiwharawhara, which is in both regional and national interests. As owners, regulators, and representatives, we have an obligation and an opportunity to secure the best possible outcome for our community and New Zealand as a whole.

The provision of a new ferry facility at Kaiwharawhara is a huge undertaking which brings a range of complications. Not least of these is the time needed to navigate consenting processes. KiwiRail's new ferries are due to arrive in 2024/25, which provides less than four years to plan, design, consent, and construct a new world-class terminal. There are a range of issues that will need to be addressed and resolved – seismic resilience of new buildings and facilities, potential impacts on Kaiwharawhara stream and the coastline (including those from reclamation), transport access, and navigational safety. These are complex issues in which a wide range of stakeholders, including mana whenua, hold an interest.

CentrePort is also working with KiwiRail (and other members of the Future Ports Forum) on a phased approach to the design, planning, consenting, and funding/financing of the ferry terminal facilities at Kaiwharawhara to meet KiwiRail's needs, as well as the potential development of additional ferry terminal facilities for use by other operators at the site. In essence, there will be a parallel process to deliver the multi-user terminal.

In our recent Briefing to Incoming Ministers, GW sought a commitment from the Government to support fast-track consenting for a new ferry facility, to align completion with the arrival of the new ferries. We believe that the Government support will be the only practical option to enable delivery of the new terminal in the timeframe required. There are essentially two options: either approving this project for fast-track consenting or passing specific enabling legislation, such as the one used for Arras Tunnel. We would support either option, and ask you to seek urgent advice from officials on these options. We note that the *Covid-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020* is scheduled for repeal in mid-2022.

With your agreement, we would be happy to work with your officials to better define the rationale for, and the issues to be covered in, any legislative support so that you might advance a paper to Cabinet.

We would be happy to meet to discuss this matter further.

Ngā mihi



Daran Ponter
Chair

CC:

Mayor Andy Foster, Wellington City Council
Barbara McKerrow, Chief Executive Wellington City Council
Lachie Johnstone, Chair CentrePort Ltd
Sir Brian Roche, Chair Waka Kotahi NZTA
Brian Corban, Chair Kiwirail

Hon Grant Robertson, MP for Wellington Central
Paul Eagle, MP for Rongotai
Greg O'Connor, MP for Ōhāriu