

By email

31 October 2024

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister for the Public Service
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Heather Baggott
Acting Public Service Commissioner
Public Service Commission
Wellington

Kia ora korua

Kotahitanga Hikoi to Parliament 19 November

You will be aware that a significant hikoi is to arrive in Wellington on 19 November, to coincide with the introduction of the Treaty Principles Bill to Parliament. We understand from various sources that the hikoi ope could fall between 10-60,000 people.

Like you and our mana whenua partners, we want the hikoi to successfully deliver its message to Parliament in a safe and peaceful manner.

Greater Wellington is assessing how we encourage people to use public transport rather than bring vehicles into Wellington City, particularly if a larger hikoi eventuates. The hikoi is likely to take place during the morning peak on 19 November, when public transport is already at capacity. This could lead to significant congestion on state highways and key roads into Wellington city, causing delays and disruption to bus services and potentially overcrowding on some rail services.

To reduce the impact on the overall transport network we would welcome your consideration of “work from home” guidance to public service chief executives. In the event of a large hikoi this would also free up space on public transport for essential frontline workers, who need to commute to and from work.

We anticipate being able to understand the likely size of the hikoi only a few days out from arriving in Wellington, noting that there is always the possibility that few special measures will be required.

Note that I am also approaching Waka Kotahi for consideration of free fares on 19 November, again only if the circumstances warrant such action.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ngā mihi



Daran Ponter
Chair

Cc:

Tory Whanau, Mayor, Wellington City Council

Helmut Modlik, CEO, Ngati Toa Rangatira

Kara Puketapu-Dentice, CEO, Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

Liz Mellish, Chair, Palmerston North Māori Reserves Trust

Anaru Smiler, Chair Wellington Tenths Trust

Sandra Venables, Assistant Commissioner, NZ Police

Brent Gliddon, Acting CEO, NZ Transport Agency/ Waka Kotahi

Ben King, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet