

Hon Michael Wood



Minister of Transport
Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

30 May 2022

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Tēnā kōrua Daran and Rachel

Re: Budget 2022 – Regional trains for Lower North Island

Thank you for your letter of 20 May 2022 to Hon Grant Robertson and myself regarding the Budget 2022 funding request from Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and Horizons Regional Council (Horizons) for 22 four-car tri-mode passenger trains. I am responding to your letter as the subject matter falls within my transport portfolio responsibilities.

While the bid was unsuccessful due to competing priorities, Ministers are mindful of the fact that the long-distance passenger rolling stock is reaching the end of its economic life. Service continuity is critical, and the New Zealand Rail Plan reflects the Government's priorities for investment.

I have therefore requested that Ministry of Transport officials, in preparation for Budget 2023, continue to work with GWRC and Horizons to examine the business case in more detail so that good information is available to support further consideration. This engagement may also consider issues of scope, cost share, and timing.

As discussed, I also think it would be valuable to meet for a discussion about this proposal in the coming period, and my office will be in touch to arrange this.

Thank you for all your work towards a cleaner and more efficient, reliable, resilient, and safe rail network that will provide greater transport options for New Zealanders.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'M. Wood'.

Hon Michael Wood
Minister of Transport