

MEMORANDUM FROM MAYORS OF TERRITORIAL LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CHAIR OF WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

Address for correspondence
C/- Mayor Jenny Brash
Porirua City Council
P O Box 50218
PORIRUA

20 April 2001

Hon Mark Gosche
Minister of Transport
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

RE: PASSENGER RAIL FOR THE WELLINGTON REGION

A meeting was held today, attended by Mayors and Councillors of the eight territorial local authorities in the Wellington Region and the Wellington Regional Council to consider passenger rail options for Wellington. The representatives of the Wellington Regional Council and all local authorities were unanimous in their support for the following set of principles.

The Wellington Regional Council and the territorial local authorities of the Wellington Region (Upper Hutt, Porirua, Hutt and Wellington City Councils, Kapiti Coast, Carterton, Masterton and South Wairarapa District Councils):

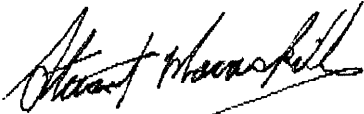
- 1. Confirm their commitment to ownership and operational structures that maintain the highest possible safety standards and the strongest possible safety incentives.*
- 2. Confirm their strong support, as expressed in the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy, for improvements to the passenger rail service in terms of reliability, convenience and comfort, within a framework that enables the Wellington Regional Council to demonstrate value for money.*
- 3. Acknowledge the desirability of public sector control over the rail corridor and associated infrastructure in order to mitigate the current private monopoly situation.*
- 4. Strongly endorse the policy of central government to ensure integrity of the national rail corridor and associated infrastructure, and their role in negotiating a new purchase agreement with Tranz Rail for the Auckland passenger rail corridor.*
- 5. Request that a similar model be applied to Wellington (possibly in the context of government ownership of the whole national rail corridor) in order that Wellington should also be able to benefit from this type of ownership framework.*
- 6. Acknowledge that a framework where New Zealand Railways Corporation owned the corridor and leased it on a non-profit making basis would be acceptable.*

7. Acknowledge the pivotal role that central government will play in any ownership structure, and their intention to work closely with central government to achieve better urban rail outcomes for the Wellington Region.

We wish to stress the strong and united agreement from the whole Wellington Region, subject to ratification by the Councils. Each Mayor or Chairman will be seeking early ratification of these principles from their Councils. We will advise you as soon as that collective ratification and agreement is obtained.

We would be pleased for representatives of this group to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss these principles and any other issues regarding passenger rail for the Wellington Region.

Yours sincerely



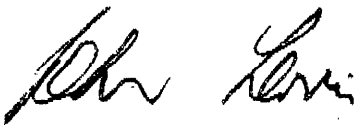
Stuart Macaskill
Chairperson
Wellington Regional Council



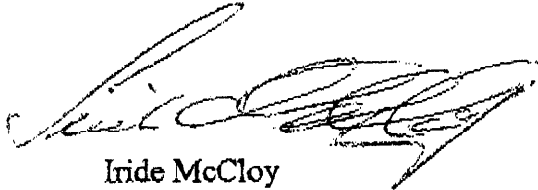
Jenny Brash
Mayor
Porirua City Council



Cr I.R. Hutchings
Chair of Transport Committee
Wellington City Council
for Mayor Blumsky



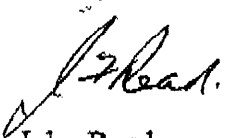
John Terris
Mayor
Hutt City Council



Irde McCloy
Mayor
Kapiti Coast District Council



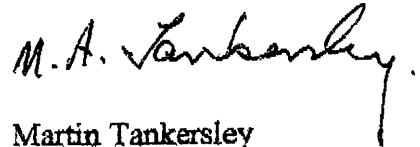
Bob Francis
Mayor
Masterton District Council



John Read
Mayor
South Wairarapa District Council



Rex Kirton
Mayor
Upper Hutt City Council



Martin Tankersley
Mayor
Carterton District Council