



Anita Baker
Mayor of Porirua City
anita.baker@poriruacity.govt.nz

17 December 2025

Daran Ponter
Chair, Greater Wellington Regional Council
via email: daran.ponter@gw.govt.nz

Kia ora Daran

Thank you for your letter dated 5 December 2025.

Congratulations on your re-election as you start your second term as Chair of the Regional Council. With so much change in the region it is helpful to have some stability as well.

I note with interest the issues you have outlined as the ones confronting the region from the Regional Council's point of view. Of course, since you sent your letter, we have also held the Mayoral Forum, so things have moved on somewhat particularly in our regional approach to the amalgamation discussion, and the collective effort required here should not be underestimated.

Porirua City Council supports your approach on the rail network and particularly the focus on returning Te Awarua o Porirua to health. I look forward to the discussion on dredging. As a Council we are committed to progressing any initiative that will enhance the health and resilience of the twin harbours at the centre of our city.

I thought I would raise with you some additional matters that we will confront jointly over the next three years:

- **Support for Petone to Grenada road of national significance** – while this is still in its early development, this project is a critical transport link in this region to enhance workability, resilience and support economic prosperity for the people of the region. For too long the region has relied on a weak transport connection from the west coast to the Hutt Valley.
- Your **promotion and implementation of a public transport link (bus connection) on the existing SH58** to connect Porirua and the Hutt Valley. This needs to be reliable, scheduled appropriately and provide a service to people currently relying on cars to get to and from their daily work or family responsibilities.
- Equally it would be useful for you to extend bus services in Porirua to the currently poorly serviced parts of our city.
- We look forward to working with you and Ngāti Toa on the development of the **bus depot at Kenepuru** to build regional resilience and with that, an improvement in service.

- **Working together on monitoring of environmental regulation** is an initiative we would be keen to progress. These discussions have faltered in the past.
- Council is soon to approve a **masterplan for the entire Northern Growth Area**. The purpose is to have an integrated approach between developers and government agencies alike. We would like the Regional Council's support to establish another railway station between Pukerua Bay and Plimmerton which would ensure public transport is a functional service for residents of the development in the future.
- As summer holidays approach we are once again aware of the **issues surrounding young people jumping off the Paremata Bridge**. We have struggled to get the relevant agencies to work with us to resolve this issue – that includes you as the regional Council and Waka Kotahi/NZTA alongside users of the harbour. We all have a part to play, and we have been very unsuccessful at finding a resolution to this matter. It is an accident waiting to happen. I have asked that officers inside my organisation initiate some fresh discussions with your staff and the relevant officers inside NZTA.

The next three years looks like they will bring significant change. We have the implementation of water reform in the first six months of 2026 and beyond, and a challenging change agenda led by the Government. I think this region has been underperforming for too long, so I look forward to working with you and our colleagues in the region to bring some certainty and improved effectiveness to all that we do.

Ngā mihi



Anita Baker
Mayor of Porirua City