

## Meeting with Wellington Regional Mayors

<b>Reason for this briefing</b>	You have been invited to attend one of the Wellington Regional Mayors' regular meetings. This briefing provides you with information in relation to Let's Get Wellington Moving and the Wellington Regional Investment Plan to assist you at this meeting.
<b>Action required</b>	Note the contents of this briefing.
<b>Deadline</b>	6 December 2018.
<b>Reason for deadline</b>	To allow time for you to prepare ahead of your meeting on 6 December 2018.

### Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	First contact
Marian Willberg	Manager, Demand Management and Revenue	██████████	✓
██████████	Adviser, Demand Management and Revenue	██████████	

### MINISTER'S COMMENTS:

Withheld to protect privacy of individuals

<b>Date:</b>	5 December 2018	<b>Briefing number:</b>	OC181186
<b>Attention:</b>	Hon Phil Twyford (Minister of Transport)	<b>Security level:</b>	In-confidence

### Minister of Transport's office actions

- Noted*
 *Seen*
 *Approved*
- Needs change*
 *Referred to*
- Withdrawn*
 *Not seen by Minister*
 *Overtaken by events*

## **Purpose of report**

1. You have been invited to attend one of the Wellington Regional Mayors' regular meetings on 6 December 2018.
2. They have invited you specifically to discuss the Wellington Regional Investment Plan (WRIP) and Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM).

## **Background**

3. The intention of the draft WRIP is to communicate the greater Wellington region councils' joint view of investment priorities for the Wellington region and establish a framework for a potential partnership with central government. The focus of the WRIP is on supporting a strong economy, greater housing choice, a transport network that delivers, and a safe, resilient environment. Work on the WRIP began in February 2018.
4. On 30 April 2018 you met with the Wellington Region Mayoral Forum where they tabled a draft WRIP. Following this meeting you requested that officials meet and discuss with the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), who is leading development of the plan.
5. You agreed that officials should engage lightly on the finalisation of the WRIP. The purpose of this engagement would be to ensure that the WRIP is broadly aligned with government priorities and objectives, and that the region moves toward a coordinated approach to planning and prioritisation of investment in the future.
6. LGWM is a priority project in the WRIP. It is a joint initiative between the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), Wellington City Council (WCC), and GWRC that began in 2016. LGWM's focus is the area from Ngauranga Gorge to the airport, encompassing the Wellington Urban Motorway and connections to the central city, hospital, and the eastern and southern suburbs.

## **Central government officials intend to work with local government to explore a partnership approach for the WRIP**

7. Central government officials have engaged lightly with GWRC officials to help them align the WRIP with the Government's urban development objectives and priorities. Once the greater Wellington region councils agree on a regional approach, central government officials could work more closely with local government to explore possibilities for a partnership approach.
8. A partnership could involve formal agreement with the Crown on a regionally-based, long-term shared vision, joint priorities and programmes of action. This agreement could include one or more of the following interventions:
  - co-ordination, facilitation and alignment of delivery across various elements of the plan
  - undertaking integrated spatial planning between the Crown and the region
  - agreeing to a pipeline of Crown and council infrastructure investment to support urban redevelopment and growth (usually over 10 years – the length of local Long Term Plans)
  - policy interventions to enable or accelerate urban development or investment opportunities (eg the Urban Development Authority)
  - securing new funding and financing, including alternative financing tools to enable infrastructure delivery.

9. You may wish to discuss greater Wellington region Mayors' thoughts on a formal agreement

**There is further work to do on the WRIP before a partnership approach can be developed**

10. The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and Ministry of Transport provided you with a joint briefing on the proposed process for engagement on the WRIP in July 2018. [REDACTED]

11. MBIE transferred the initiative to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on 1 October. HUD has reviewed a working draft of the WRIP, which may have changed by the time you meet with the regional mayors. HUD advises that there are a number of matters to consider before decisions are made on establishing a partnership. These matters include:

- [REDACTED]
- Further detail on how transport projects included in the WRIP (including LGWM) could unlock wider urban development benefits would also assist with understanding full potential of a regional plan.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Withheld to protect future negotiations

12. The WRIP should also consider other regional needs such as impacts on educational and health facilities. With the projected growth for the region, the GWRC should be encouraged to consider these given the intention of the WRIP to be about meeting community needs.

13. You may wish to discuss the regional mayors' thoughts on how LGWM integrates with the objectives of the WRIP and how the region intends to govern and deliver the WRIP.
14. The regional mayors may also be interested in decisions about the form and powers of the Authority, and how it will work with territorial authorities.

**Local government is positive about your preferred approach to LGWM**

15. This year you have been engaging with WCC and GWRC politicians to agree on a package for LGWM that both central and local government support. The proposed package put to you by LGWM was ambitious, and you asked LGWM to explore options to split the package into two phases. The intention of taking a phased approach was for you and local politicians to be able to publically announce a fully funded first phase of LGWM, and a vision to work towards the second phase.

16. On 4 December 2018 you met with the LGWM Governance Group (Mayor Justin Lester, the GWRC Chair and officials from WCC, GWRC and NZTA) and shared your preferred approach for LGWM including which projects would be included in the first phase and how funding for those projects would be shared between local and central government. Table 1 below outlines this approach.
17. The Mayor of Wellington indicated that WCC and GWRC were positive about this approach and able to fund their share of the package.

Table 1 – LGWM phase 1 projects preferred approach

Programme element	Capex \$m	Local share (\$m)	Central share (\$m)
<i>Projects to be funded under current FAR (51%)</i>			
A walkable city	84	41	43
Connected cycleways	36	18	18
Public transport (City and North)	324	159	165
Smarter transport network	36	18	18
Smarter pricing	36	18	18
<i>Projects to be funded 100 percent by central government</i>			
Rapid transit Railway Station – Newtown	1,188	0	1,188
<i>Projects to be funded 100 percent by local government</i>			
Unblocking the Basin Reserve	156	156	0
Second Mount Victoria Tunnel and four laning at Ruahine Street	577	577	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>1,450</b>

18. The projects in Table 2 below represent the vision for the second phase of LGWM. These projects are not funded, and further work is required before any decisions are made on the second phase projects and funding or financing.
19. You discussed with the LGWM Governance Group that if undergrounding at Te Aro goes ahead, it will not be funded as a transport project as the benefits it is expected to deliver are mostly related to urban development.

Table 2 – LGWM phase 2 projects

Programme element	Capex (\$m)
Rapid Transit Newtown to Airport	540
Undergrounding at Te Aro	1320
Second Terrace Tunnel, and a fourth southbound lane between Ngauranga and Aotrea	480
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,340</b>

Marian Willberg  
Manager, Demand Management and Revenue

**MINISTER'S SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:**