

Hon Simeon Brown

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport

Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



Tory Whanau
Mayor
Wellington City Council
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22 December 2023

Dear Tory

Thank you for meeting with the Chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), Hon Chris Bishop and myself on 13 December 2023 to discuss next steps for Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM), and for your cooperation on the subsequent announcement. It was a positive discussion and we appreciate the constructive approach you have taken to the issue. I am writing to you and to Chair Ponter to recap what we discussed.

We all agree that the LGWM programme is not meeting its objectives. Given this, and the Government's commitment not to fund work on light rail in Wellington, we also agree that disestablishing LGWM by mutual partner agreement is the best way forward. I have asked the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) to work with you and GWRC on this.

As discussed, the Government has some concerns with the scope and potential impacts of the Golden Mile project and I appreciate your willingness to reconsider elements of it. I note that since the Golden Mile project is co-funded by Wellington City Council (WCC) and NZTA, it is WCC's responsibility. If WCC does decide to proceed with the project, then it is particularly important in my view that retailers are engaged in the process and that the project's design meets everyone's needs such as better bus routes and improved efficiency of the bus network on the Golden Mile.

The Government is committed to investing in Wellington's transport system, with a key focus on improving the Basin Reserve and building a second tunnel under Mt Victoria. I look forward to working with you to ensure those investments achieve the largest possible benefit for Wellington.

I am sure we all want to see LGWM disestablished at pace. I am asking NZTA to coordinate a response, jointly approved alongside GWRC and WCC, that outlines the three partners' views about the next actions required to give effect to this. I would appreciate this response at your earliest convenience.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with me. I am happy to discuss these matters further if required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Simeon Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'B'.

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport

cc: Nicole Rosie, Chief Executive, NZTA