

10 April 2024

File Ref: IRC-5900

Radio New Zealand

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 23 February 2024 to Wellington City Council, requesting the following information:

- *All communications between Wellington City Council's offices – including the mayoral office – and the Local Government Minister between October 1 2023 and January 23 2024*

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and as per my decision letter to you on **20 March 2024**, please find attached as Appendix One to my response, which outlines the documents being released to you and the decision on the release.

One change was made during the finalisation of the documents; therefore, we are no longer withholding any information pursuant to section 7(2)(b)(ii) to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

As per section 7(1) of the LGOIMA, I do not consider that in the circumstances of this response, the withholding of this information is outweighed by the other considerations which render it desirable to in the public interest to make the information available.

You have the right, by way of complaint under section 28(1) of the LGOIMA, to request an investigation and review of the Council's decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you require further information, please contact assurance@wcc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Danika Morris-Brown
*Senior Advisor Official Information
Complaints & Information Assurance
Wellington City Council*

Appendix One – Documents and Decision on Release

Document	Title	Pages	Release Decision
01	Minister of Local Government to Mayor Whanau Wellington City Council	4	Some information withheld pursuant to section 7(2)(a)
02	Letter to Mayor and Chief Executive from Hon Simeon Brown	1	Some information withheld pursuant to section 7(2)(a)
03	Fwd Correspondence from the Minister of Transport	4	Some information withheld pursuant to section 7(2)(a)
04	FW Letter – Minister of Local Government to Mayor Whanau	3	Some information withheld pursuant to section 7(2)(a)
05	FW Correspondence from Hon Christopher Bishop and Hon Simeon Brown	3	Some information withheld pursuant to section 7(2)(a)
06	FW Transport Choices Programme	3	Some information withheld pursuant to section 7(2)(a)
07	FW FINAL media statement	2	Some information withheld pursuant to section 7(2)(a)
08	FW LGWM Mayor's Office edits	3	Some information withheld pursuant to section 7(2)(a)

From: [Simeon Brown \(MIN\)](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Cc: [Barbara McKerrow](#)
Subject: Minister of Local Government to Mayor Whanau Wellington City Council
Date: Thursday, 14 December 2023 4:21:09 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[Mayor Whanau Wellington City Council.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor Whanau

Please find attached correspondence from Hon Simeon Brown.

Kind regards

s7(2)(e)



s7(2)(a)

Office of Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Energy, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Transport, Minister for Auckland, Member of Parliament for Pakuranga

Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Authorised by Hon Simeon Brown, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

Hon Simeon Brown

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy

Minister for Auckland

Minister of Local Government

Minister of Transport

Deputy Leader of the House



Mayor Tory Whanau
Wellington City Council
Email: mayor@wcc.govt.nz

cc. Barbara McKerrow Chief Executive
Email: barbara.mckerrow@wcc.govt.nz

Dear Mayor Whanau

New direction for water services delivery

This morning I announced that earlier this week Cabinet agreed to repeal the previous government's water services legislation. I also signalled next steps for implementing our plan for water services, Local Water Done Well.

I wish to provide you with further information about three key aspects of our plan, to ensure you have the clarity and certainty you need as you develop your council's 2024-34 long-term plan and prepare for your next financial year:

1. Repeal of the previous government's water services legislation
2. Options to help your council complete its 2024-34 long-term plan
3. Local Water Done Well – key principles of our future direction for water services.

I want to acknowledge that councils across the country are facing multiple challenges, including pressures with water infrastructure. I also want to acknowledge that many councils have done a good job of managing their water infrastructure, and that there is not a one size fits all solution to moving to more financially sustainable water services.

The Government is committed to addressing the longstanding challenges this country is facing with our water services infrastructure.

Our Local Water Done Well approach recognises the importance of local decision making and flexibility for communities and councils to determine how their water services will be delivered in future. We will do this while ensuring a strong emphasis on meeting rules for water quality and investment in infrastructure.

1. Repealing the previous Government's water services legislation

Cabinet has agreed to introduce a repeal bill that will restore council ownership and control of water infrastructure and services. The bill makes the following changes:

- All legislation relating to water services entities will be repealed (Water Services Entities Act 2022, Water Services Entities Amendment Act 2023, and Water Services Legislation Act 2023).
- Previous legislation related to the provision of water services will be reinstated (including local government legislation). This will restore continued council ownership and control of water services, and responsibility for service delivery.

- The Northland and Auckland Water Services Entity (the only entity that had been legally established under the Water Services Entities Act 2022) will be disestablished and any outstanding work on the entity's set-up will cease.
- Councils will need to add and integrate information about water services into their 2024 long-term plans. Some transitional support options are available to assist you (below).

The repeal bill is expected to be introduced in February 2024 and enacted as soon as possible.

2. Options to help your council complete its 2024-34 long-term plan

I have heard that councils are seeking legislative certainty for your 2024-34 long-term plan and are seeking direction and support for how to continue to plan for and finance water services.

I am also conscious that different councils will have different needs and preferences and will be at various stages of developing their long-term plans.

To provide flexibility for these local circumstances, Cabinet has agreed the repeal bill will include temporary modifications to local government legislation for the transitional period affecting the 2024 long-term plans. Once the bill is passed, these options will be available for councils to use, as appropriate.

I recognise a few councils are preparing an unaudited three-year plan, with a focus on cyclone recovery, rather than a standard 10-year plan. As such, some of the proposed modifications may be less relevant to you.

If your council is...	Options available
<p>Starting to prepare or consult on long-term planning material that includes water services information – ahead of the repeal bill being enacted</p>	<p>The enacted provisions clarify that the council can include water services material in the final plan, without re-consulting, but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must include new/updated information on water services in its final plan – to reflect the continuation of its responsibilities; • Must consider the views and preferences of affected and interested persons as it considers appropriate; and • Does not have to delay the adoption of its long-term plan past 30 June 2024 (in order to provide opportunities for public consultation on its revised proposals). <p>Transitional provisions will also help ensure the risks of future legal challenge (associated with concerns about possible issues in process) will be minimised.</p>

If your council is...	Options available
<p>Needing more time to develop and consult on long-term planning material</p>	<p>The statutory deadline by which the 2024 long-term plan must be adopted will be extended by three months – to 30 September 2024.</p> <p>This flexibility may be desirable to smaller councils with fewer resources, or those councils that would prefer to wait until the repeal legislation is enacted before starting consultation.</p> <p>The deadline for adopting the 2023/24 annual reports will also be extended, to reflect the possible overlap in auditing processes if councils are taking longer than usual to finalise the long-term plan.</p>
	<p>Councils will be permitted to have unaudited long-term plan consultation documents.</p> <p>This would allow auditing of the final long-term plan to proceed in tandem with consultation, to help achieve statutory deadlines.</p>

3. Local Water Done Well – key principles of our future direction for water services

With Local Water Done Well we are going to do things in a way that recognises the importance of local decision making and flexibility for communities and councils to determine how their water services will be delivered in future. We will do this while ensuring a strong emphasis on meeting rules for water quality and investment in infrastructure.

We want to enable councils and communities to determine what works best for them, while establishing clear expectations and bottom lines.

Key principles of our future plan for the delivery of water services include:

- Introducing greater central government oversight, economic and quality regulation.
- Fit-for-purpose service delivery models and financing tools, such as improving the current council-controlled organisation model and developing a new class of financially separate council-owned organisation.
- Setting rules for water services and infrastructure investment.
- Ensuring water services are financially sustainable. Financial sustainability means revenue sufficiency, balance sheet separation, ring-fencing and funding for growth.

I intend to work with all councils on the development of our Local Water Done Well policy to ensure it reflects your local needs and circumstances.

I look forward to working with you in the New Year to refine our approach to water services delivery.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Local Government

Hon Simeon Brown

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport

Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



20 DEC 2023

Dear Mayor and Chief Executive

A number of local authorities have been working with New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) on projects funded through the Climate Emergency Response Fund (CERF) under the Transport Choices programme. NZTA paused funding commitments for these projects at the end of October 2023.

I am writing to inform you of my decisions regarding the Transport Choices programme:

- All projects that were put on hold at the end of October 2023 will not receive any further funding, and therefore will not proceed to implementation/construction as part of the Transport Choices programme.
- The Transport Choices projects that already have a signed Schedule 2 (implementation/construction) funding agreement with NZTA are not impacted, and can continue to progress to delivery.
- All councils proceeding in the programme with a signed Schedule 2 funding agreement are to complete their Transport Choices projects by June 2025.

NZTA will be in communication with your teams early in the New Year to discuss implications for your project(s) specifically.

Thank you for your understanding as we work through these changes.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport

From: [Mayor Tory Whanau](#)
To: [S7\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Subject: [Twa: Correspondence from the Minister of Transport](#)
Date: [Tuesday, 12 December 2023 8:06:37 pm](#)
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[Wellington City Council.pdf](#)

Won't open on my phone

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Simeon Brown (MIN) <S.Brown@ministers.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 7:08:54 PM
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <[S7\(2\)\(a\)@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:S7(2)(a)@wcc.govt.nz)>
Cc: Barbara McKerrow <barbara.mckerrow@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Correspondence from the Minister of Transport

Dear Tory

Please find attached correspondence from Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Transport.

Kind regards,



Office of Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport, Minister of Local Government, Minister for Energy, Minister for Auckland

Email: S.Brown@ministers.govt.nz Website: www.beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy
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Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport
Deputy Leader of the House



Mayor Tory Whanau
Wellington City Council
Email: mayor@wcc.govt.nz

cc. Barbara McKerrow Chief Executive
Email: barbara.mckerrow@wcc.govt.nz

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I look forward to working with you in the New Year to refine our approach to water services delivery.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Local Government

From: [Mayor](#)
To: [Mayor Tory Whanau](#)
Cc: [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Subject: FW: Letter - Minister of Local Government to Mayor Whanau
Date: Saturday, 20 January 2024 9:13:00 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[Letter - Minister Brown to Wellington City Council 19012024.pdf](#)

From: [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#) <[s7\(2\)\(a\)](#)@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 19 January 2024 6:09 pm
To: Mayor <[mayor@wcc.govt.nz](#)>
Cc: Barbara McKerrow <[barbara.mckerrow@wcc.govt.nz](#)>
Subject: Letter - Minister of Local Government to Mayor Whanau

Dear Mayor Whanau

Please find the attached correspondence from Hon Simeon Brown.



s7(2)(a)

al Government | Office of Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Energy, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Transport, Minister for Auckland, Member of Parliament for Pakuranga

Website: [www.Beehive.govt.nz](#)
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Authorised by Hon Simeon Brown, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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Hon Simeon Brown

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport
Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



19 January 2024

Tory Whanau
Mayor
Wellington City Council

By email: mayor@wcc.govt.nz

Dear Tory

I wrote to the chair of the Wellington Water Committee on 20 December 2023 asking what action shareholder councils are taking in the short- to medium-term to address potential water shortages, and future plans to protect water supplies. My letter was in response to concerns raised by Taumata Arowai that modelling by Wellington Water and the Greater Wellington Regional Council showed that demand will exceed supply in January and February this year.

I understand the chair of Wellington Water asked your council to provide the required information to him by 17 January 2024. I am disappointed that you have not met this deadline or provided any update to my office.

Water shortages in our capital city will have significant impacts on communities and businesses. I expect councils to take their obligations to residents and ratepayers seriously and implement all mitigations necessary to avoid cuts or limits on water supplies.

As Minister of Local Government, I have a range of options under Part 10 of the Local Government Act in relation to local authorities. Under section 257 I can require a local authority to provide information to me about the problem and its plans to address it.

Based on your failure to respond to the chair of the Wellington Water Committee, modelling prepared by Wellington Water, and ongoing public concerns that a state of drinking water emergency may be declared this summer period, I believe a problem may exist with your Council's ability to meet its obligations regarding supply of drinking water and you are unwilling or unable to address it.

It is on this basis that I am making a formal request for more information, under section 257 of the Local Government Act 2002.

I require the following information to understand how you are addressing or planning to address the problem:

- a summary of all actions taken by your council in the last ten years to prevent water shortages, including investment in water network infrastructure and asset management;
- a summary of all funding provided by your council in the last ten years for condition assessments of water network infrastructure;
- detail of all depreciation accrued against your water network infrastructure versus the level of capital investment to be outlined in the first three years of your 2024-34 Long Term Plan;

- a summary of all advice received by your council from Wellington Water in relation to necessary investment levels and actions taken by your council in response to this;
- evidence your council intends to make necessary investments in the first three years of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan in water loss management activities, and increasing capacity and storage;
- evidence your council is committed to supporting the recommendations made at the Wellington Water Summit in September 2023;
- any other documentation that would give me assurance your Council is taking action to address the risk of water shortages this summer and into the future.

Please submit the information requested to my office in writing by 1 February 2024.

Under section 257(4) of the Local Government Act 2002, you must respond to this notice by this date, unless I have agreed otherwise.

Should you have any questions about this process, or any questions regarding my decision, please contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Local Government

Copy to: Barbara McKerrow
Chief Executive
Wellington City Council

From: [Mayoral Meetings](#)
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Hon Christopher Bishop and Hon Simeon Brown
Date: Wednesday, 24 January 2024 12:29:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[230124 - Letter to Mayor Whanau.pdf](#)

From: Christopher Bishop (MIN) <C.Bishop@ministers.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 January 2024 5:58 pm
To: Mayor <mayor@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Simeon Brown (MIN) <S.Brown@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Correspondence from Hon Christopher Bishop and Hon Simeon Brown

Good Evening

Please find attached a letter from Hon Christopher Bishop and Hon Simeon Brown regarding Wellington Golden Mile.

Kind regards



Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Housing | Infrastructure | RMA Reform | Sports & Recreation |
Associate Finance | Leader of the House | MP for Hutt /south

DDI: s7(2)(a)
Email: C.Bishop@ministers.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2019 AND OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

Office of Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Finance



Tuesday 23 January 2024

Her Worship Tory Whanau
Mayor of Wellington
By email: mayor@wcc.govt.nz

RE: Wellington Golden Mile Project

Dear Mayor

We are writing to formally request an update on the commitments you agreed to on behalf of the Wellington City Council regarding the Wellington Golden Mile project at our meeting on 13 December 2023.

The collective focus during our meeting highlighted the importance of prioritising efficiency and enhancing both bus routes and pedestrian access within the project. Notably, all participants in the meeting acknowledged that the Government does not endorse in-lane bus stopping.

During our discussions, you committed to reassess and modify this aspect of the design of the Golden Mile as the project transitions to being Council-led, aiming to eliminate this element. Critically, you agreed to increase engagement and consultation with local businesses and residents as part of bringing the project in-house.

This commitment was reflected in our joint statement approved by your office, issued on 17 December 2024, which stated: "Wellington City Council will bring the Golden Mile project in-house and work to cost efficiencies, better bus routes, greater pedestrian access and closer engagement with local businesses."

This remains the Government's position.

We were surprised to read a letter from Buddle Findlay solicitors acting for Wellington City Council, sent to the legal representatives for the Guardians of the Golden Mile, a local business advocacy group. This letter, dated 20 December 2023, states that "WCC does not intend to revisit the decisions that it has made concerning the GMRP. WCC does not consider that it is required to consult further with businesses before any further steps are taken in respect of the GMRP as WCC intends to proceed with the GMRP in accordance with its previous decisions."

Considering our agreement, we are now seeking an understanding of how the Buddle Findlay letter can be reconciled with our joint statement issued only three days earlier.

We also seek an update on the reconsideration of the design of the Golden Mile, specifically addressing the removal of in-lane bus stopping.

Furthermore, we request an outline of the steps being taken to ensure effective community re-engagement as part of this process.

We believe that sustained communication is essential to the success of transport improvements in Wellington and request that you respond to this letter by 1 February 2024.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Simeon Brown".

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Bishop".

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister of Infrastructure

RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

From: s7(2)(a)
To: s7(2)(a); s7(2)(a)
Cc: s7(2)(a); s7(2)(a); s7(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Transport Choices Programme
Date: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 12:10:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[20 December 2023 - Transport Choices.pdf](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi s7(2)(a)

Can we have some advice on what this letter means? Seems he is clarifying his earlier letter from last week.

s7(2)(a)

From: Mayor Tory Whanau <s7(2)(a)@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:58 AM
To: s7(2)(a); s7(2)(a)@wcc.govt.nz
Subject: FW: Transport Choices Programme

[Tory Whanau](#)

Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council
EA: Tiumalu Sialava'a s7(2)(a)

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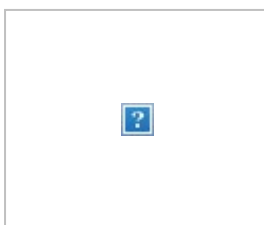


From: Simeon Brown (MIN) <S.Brown@ministers.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:04 am
To: Simeon Brown (MIN) <S.Brown@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Transport Choices Programme

Good morning Mayor and Chief Executive

Please find attached letter from Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Transport, regarding Transport Choices Programme.

Kind regards



Office of Hon Simeon Brown

Minister of Transport | Minister for Auckland | Minister for Energy | Minister for Local Government

Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand



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Hon Simeon Brown

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy

Minister of Local Government

Minister of Transport

Minister for Auckland

Deputy Leader of the House



20 DEC 2023

Dear Mayor and Chief Executive

A number of local authorities have been working with New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) on projects funded through the Climate Emergency Response Fund (CERF) under the Transport Choices programme. NZTA paused funding commitments for these projects at the end of October 2023.

I am writing to inform you of my decisions regarding the Transport Choices programme:

- All projects that were put on hold at the end of October 2023 will not receive any further funding, and therefore will not proceed to implementation/construction as part of the Transport Choices programme.
- The Transport Choices projects that already have a signed Schedule 2 (implementation/construction) funding agreement with NZTA are not impacted, and can continue to progress to delivery.
- All councils proceeding in the programme with a signed Schedule 2 funding agreement are to complete their Transport Choices projects by June 2025.

NZTA will be in communication with your teams early in the New Year to discuss implications for your project(s) specifically.

Thank you for your understanding as we work through these changes.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister of Transport

From: s7(2)(a)
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: FW: FINAL media statement LGWM
Date: Monday, 29 January 2024 4:12:51 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

From: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 7:02 PM
To: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@wcc.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>
Cc: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: FINAL media statement LGWM

Amazing, thanks s7(2)(a)!

s7(2)(a)
Senior Press Secretary, Hon Chris Bishop
s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 7:00:11 PM
To: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>
Cc: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: FINAL media statement LGWM

Approved from this end. Thanks so much s7(2)(a)!

Have a great weekend everyone.

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From: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 6:29:35 PM
To: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@wcc.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>
Cc: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: FINAL media statement LGWM

Hi again,

Final-final version attached. Hopefully we're there now.

Thanks again to you all for such prompt feedback. I'm very grateful!

s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 15 December 2023 4:45 PM
To: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@wcc.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>
Cc: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: FINAL media statement LGWM

Kia ora koutou,

Attached is the final version of the media release with edits from you all. I have done my very best to accommodate everyone's

views.

In the interests of getting mutual agreement by all four leaders, I respectfully ask that you only suggest changes now if you have spotted a factual inaccuracy or if any part of it is an absolute dealbreaker.

The plan is still for me to send this media release out on Sunday at 11am.

I'll be on s7(2)(a) all weekend so please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Thanks again for all your help and your very timely feedback!

Ngā mihi,

s7(2)(a)



s7(2)(a)

Senior Press Secretary | Office of Hon Chris Bishop
Minister of Housing | Minister for Infrastructure |
Minister for Sports & Recreation | Minister Responsible for RMA Reform |
Associate Minister of Finance | Leader of the House | Member for Hutt South |

DDI: s7(2)(a)
Email: s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 10041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Authorised by Hon Chris Bishop, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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From: s7(2)(a)
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: FW: LGWM Mayor's Office edits
Date: Monday, 29 January 2024 4:13:51 pm
Attachments: [DRAFT media statement LGWM Mayor office edits \(1\).docx](#)
[image001.png](#)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 1:57 PM
To: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@gw.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@wcc.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@wcc.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: LGWM Mayor's Office edits

Kia ora koutou,

Please see the PR with edits from the mayor's office. Happy to provide track change copy if it's helpful.

Feel free to ring if any issues.

Ngā mihi,

s7(2)(a)

s7(2)(a) (She/Her)
Principal Communications Specialist to the Mayor

M: s7(2)(a)

E: s7(2)(a)@wcc.govt.nz



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Sunday 17 December 2023

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for Infrastructure & Housing

Hon Simeon Brown, Minister for Transport

Mayor Tory Whanau, Wellington City Council

Mr Daran Ponter, Chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council

Ministers, Mayor and Chair reach mutual agreement to end Let's Get Wellington Moving, find areas of collaboration

- An agreement has been reached to dissolve Let's Get Wellington Moving
- Central government will build and fund the second Mt Victoria tunnel, opening up opportunities for urban development and housing
- The Golden Mile will be shifted to Wellington City Council to ensure cost efficiency, better bus routes, greater pedestrian access and closer engagement with local businesses
- Conversations will begin on a City Deal for Wellington

An agreement to dissolve Let's Get Wellington Moving has been reached by Infrastructure & Housing Minister Chris Bishop; Transport Minister Simeon Brown, Mayor of Wellington City Council Tory Whanau, and Chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council Daran Ponter.

"Today local, regional and central government are in agreement about the way forward for Wellington. It is important to me that we work constructively with the new government to deliver the infrastructure that Wellington desperately needs. It is good to have a clear sense of direction from the Government and commitment to investing in the infrastructure for our growing population," says Mayor Tory Whanau.

Delivering a second Mt Victoria tunnel is a key commitment of the new coalition government. Under the old Let's Get Wellington Moving deal, Wellington City Council would have been responsible for 40% of the new tunnel's construction costs.

"Wellingtonians are sick of all the backwards and forwards on the second Mt Vic tunnel. The plan now is for central government to fully fund the new tunnel, with work beginning this term. The tunnel will create exciting opportunities for more urban development and housing, and the government will work with council to explore these opportunities," Infrastructure and Housing Minister Chris Bishop said.

"I have been clear that I do not support a second Mt Victoria car tunnel. However, the Government has said that this is a priority for them this term and have committed to funding 100% of the costs. I am also glad to have found areas of collaboration where we can look to develop a housing and urban growth precinct with the acquisition of land for this development", says Mayor Whanau.

"I am focused on delivering effective and efficient transport solutions for the people and businesses of Wellington. This means that whilst delivering the Golden Mile project, we ensure that it meets the needs of local businesses, especially through the construction period. I will be working closely with the Mayor to ensure this happens," Transport Minister Simeon Brown said.

"We've agreed that Wellington City Council will take over delivery of the Golden Mile revitalisation project. I believe that by bringing this important project in-house we can ensure it is delivered as cost effectively as possible and we can better engage with local businesses," says Mayor Whanau.

“Thousands of Wellingtonians commute to work every day, making it essential that our public transport network is fit for purpose,” said Greater Wellington Regional Council Chair Daran Ponter. “It is important that we super-charge bus priority routes on our core transport spines and open up a new public transport spine on the Harbour Quays”

“As we move through the next stages of building Wellington’s future transport solutions, we are all looking forward to having discussions on creating a City Deal for Wellington. This would mean having strategic objectives for road, rail, public transport, housing and environmental resilience investments for Wellington that are shared by central, regional and local government, along with long-term funding commitments to enable certainty of planning,” said Simeon Brown.

“We’re all excited to be on the same page as we plan and build the infrastructure Wellington needs to actually, at long last, really get moving,” said Chris Bishop.

ENDS

Media contacts for:

Hon Chris Bishop: s7(2)(a)

Mayor Whanau: s7(2)(a)

Greater Wellington Regional Council: s7(2)(a)

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