

7 February 2020

Committee Secretariat
Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee
Select Committee Services
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

File ref: TTP 02 01
LMS

Email to: ti@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

HORIZONS REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE SUBMISSION ON THE LAND TRANSPORT (RAIL) LEGISLATION BILL

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Land Transport (Rail) Legislation Bill. This submission is made on behalf of the Horizons Regional Transport Committee (RTC) which consists of representatives from:

- Horizons Regional Council;
- Horowhenua District Council;
- Manawatu District Council;
- Palmerston North City Council;
- Rangitikei District Council;
- Ruapehu District Council;
- Tararua District Council;
- Whanganui District Council; and
- The New Zealand Transport Agency

We note that a submission from the Regional Sector Transport Special Interest Group, of which our organisation is a member, has been made. We support the matters raised in that submission but wish to also make some key points regarding areas of relevance to our region.

The RTC makes the following notes and comments:

- The Committee **supports** the objective of the Bill to implement a new funding and planning framework for the heavy rail network. This will bring the rail network in line with all other land transport activities which are funded and planned under the Land Transport Management Act and ultimately will enable a more integrated approach to land transport planning.

- The Bill requires KiwiRail to develop a three yearly Rail Network Investment Plan (RNIP). The Committee notes that KiwiRail are required to consult on the RNIP with Auckland Transport and Greater Wellington Regional Council RTC's only.

The Committee **requests** that the Bill be amended to provide for consultation on the RNIP be undertaken with **all** RTC's prior to it being submitted to the Minister. We are concerned that the current timing leaves little to no opportunity for proposed rail projects to be considered and included in the Regional Land Transport Planning process. Early consultation with RTC's will give Council an understanding of any rail investment proposed in their respective regions.

- Further to the previous point, the Committee wishes to highlight our **concern** regarding the timing of the RNIP. At present the proposed release of the first RNIP coincides with the release of the NLTP (1 July 2021). The timing of this is awkward for Regional Council's as we are required to have our RLTP's submitted to NZTA by 30 April 2021. This means we are unlikely to have a good understanding of what rail infrastructure projects are proposed for our region in time for inclusion in the RLTP, particularly if consultation is limited to Auckland and Wellington only.

The Committee **submits** that Section 22 A(4) be amended to have the RNIP prepared by October 2020 to allow sufficient time for RTC's to incorporate relevant sections of the RNIP into the RLTP.

- The Committee **notes** that the Bill proposes a 'partial integration' model for including rail infrastructure in the LTMA. Under this model decision making on the rail investment programme sits with the Minister of Transport with NZTA making recommendations to the minister on whether the RNIP is consistent with the LTMA and GPS. The Committee **does not support** this model.

The Committee **submits** that the '**full integration**' model outlined in the Regulatory Impact Analysis should be adopted. The full integration model enables rail investment to follow the same pathway as other land transport programmes thereby assisting our regional land transport planning. This would allow rail projects be prioritised with other transport activities prior to being included in the National Land Transport Programme. The partial integration model proposed does not provide for this.

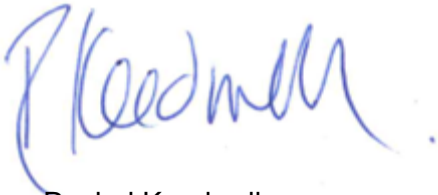
- The Committee **notes** that the Bill requires KiwiRail to be a non-voting member of the Auckland and Wellington RTCs. It is proposed that KiwiRail could join other RTC's as a non-voting member if requested.

The Committee wishes to **signal our intention** to request a non-voting member join Horizons RTC. We have some notable rail investment projects in our region, namely the Capital Connection commuter service between Wellington and Palmerston North and the proposed Regional Freight Rail Hub. The Committee considers that KiwiRail representation on our RTC will assist with planning and information surrounding these key projects, particularly as we enter the next RLTP planning phase.

The RTC does not wish to be heard in support of this submission.

For further information on the matters raised in relation to this submission, please contact Horizons Regional Council's Transport Manager, on 0508 800 800.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Keedwell

CHAIR, HORIZONS REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE