

By email

28 January 2026

Mayor Anita Baker
Porirua City Council
mayor@porirua.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Mayor Baker

Proposal for a New Train Station between Plimmerton and Pukerua Bay

Happy New Year and thank you for your letter of 17 December, which references public transport. We appreciate your leadership in championing mode shift and improved public transport outcomes for current and future residents. We share your vision for a connected city and value your support for the Kenepuru bus depot.

However, we are unable to support your aspiration for a new train station between Plimmerton and Pukerua Bay and this position was signalled in Greater Wellington's submission to the draft Porirua Growth Strategy in February 2019, which says:

Adding new train stations at Whenua Tapu and Aotea is unlikely to be feasible due to close proximity of existing stations, high development cost, operational implications and impact on travel times for other passengers.

While the principle of enhanced connectivity aligns with our public transport objectives, a new station is not viable for the following reasons:

- **Proximity of other train stations and operational implications**

The proposed location is served by existing nearby stations at Plimmerton and Pukerua Bay, which reduces the potential for net patronage growth and compromises network efficiency. Placing stations on curves and gradients is not best practice, and there are limited opportunities to create this in this section of track, particularly with Taupō Swamp in the area further making track re-alignment challenging.

An additional stop would extend journey times for existing passengers and introduce operational complexities that could affect service reliability and punctuality.

- **Affordability**

In the current financial climate—where rates affordability is front of mind for both of our councils —the capital and maintenance costs associated with a new station cannot be justified. This is particularly acute given the site’s geotechnical constraints (including swampy ground conditions), which would increase design, construction, and maintenance costs.

- **Environmental impact**

Any construction in this area could impact the Taupō Swamp - the first major wetland to be protected in the Wellington region with a rich diversity of plants, fish, birds. Construction could also lead to increased sediment in the Porirua harbour.

- **Accessibility constraints**

The steep topography in the area makes access to and from the new development at Plimmerton Farm challenging for people trying to travel between their homes and the proposed train station on foot and pedestrians would have to cross a state highway to get to the train station, possibly requiring budget for a pedestrian overbridge to ensure safety.

We are committed to continuing to work collaboratively with you and your officers on practical alternatives that advance our shared goals, including enhancements to walking and cycling connections to existing stations and bus corridors and considering what opportunities for walking and cycling could be progressed through the revocation of State Highway 59.

Thank you again for your letter and your ongoing advocacy for public transport.

Ngā mihi



Daran Ponter
Heamana | Chair

cc:

Greater Wellington Councillors Porirua-Tawa Constituency - Claire Johnstone, Phil Rhodes