

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister for Racing
Minister for Rail



Daran Ponter
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Dear Daran

Thank you for your letter dated 2 December 2025 regarding investment in regional rail infrastructure and services.

We appreciate the long-term view you are taking on improving the Wellington metro network but we will not be able to fund feasibility studies for the projects you have recommended. Greater Wellington Regional Council should begin its funding discussions with the New Zealand Transport Agency for consideration in future transport plans, including through your Region Land Transport Plan process.

The Government has provided significant funding for the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM) programme and we want to see new rolling stock delivered and network upgrades undertaken to support the hybrid trains operation. We would like to see Greater Wellington focused on that work.

We understand Greater Wellington also wants to introduce a more frequent Wellington train timetable in the coming years enabled by the Government investment in new sub-stations, signaling and network improvements. To deliver a more intense timetable, KiwiRail has advised other work may be needed to increase capacity between Pukerua Bay and Paekakariki (North South Junction), Waikanae, Woburn Junction, and other work at the approach to Wellington Railway Station.

The Government will consider these improvements in due course, but we would like to see the LNIRIM programme benefits realised to support further metro developments.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Winston Peters', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister for Rail

Copied: Hon Chris Bishop, Minister of Transport