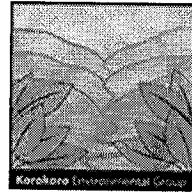


15 January 2018

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport
Parliament House, Wellington



Dear Minister,

Petone to Grenada Link Road

Korokoro Environmental Group (KEG) calls on you to ensure the Petone - Grenada road (P2G) is not built through the Korokoro Valley and that NZTA is steered towards more sustainable transport options for improving connections between and within Hutt and Porirua cities. We understand that whether to approve any route proposed by NZTA is a matter for the Regional Council. However, the decision as to whether to build the P2G is ultimately that of NZTA, for which you are the responsible minister.

KEG has actively supported the ecology of this beautiful valley for many years, working with DOC, the Wellington Regional Council and Hutt City Council on practical efforts such as pest monitoring, spat ropes, weed busting and planting, and also advocating during the public campaign to protect Valley from major environmental damage posed by the P2G.

It was of enormous relief to us and to the thousands who love and use the Valley, and are concerned with the beauty and biodiversity of our region, when the decision was taken in 2016 that the P2G would not be built through the Valley. The recent evaluation now recommends that decision makers revisit that option. The issues regarding significant environmental and cultural damage that would eventuate have been addressed in many submissions.

We ask you to reconsider the case for the P2G. We do not believe it was ever powerful, nor was it underpinned by a sound strategic and sustainable vision for the transport of the region. There are several sensible alternative ways of improving the Lower Hutt-Wellington and Lower Hutt-Porirua connectivity which do not involve the building of a major new road through a Regional Park. Some of these are touched on in the recent evaluation. They include:

- Enhancing the Ngauranga to Petone Corridor
- Improving SH58
- Creating better public transport links between Lower Hutt and Porirua.
- Supporting the development of the CrossValley Link (CVL) which, aligned with other improvements would be a viable and indeed essential alternative to the P2G.

We call on you to replace the discredited approach of tackling congestion through increased road building with a strategy which focusses on intelligent public and haulage transport, improved facilities for cycling and walking and public planning to reduce car use across the region.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Julie Haggie

Chairperson, Korokoro Environmental Group

Judy@xtra.co.nz,

107A Maungaraki Road, Korokoro, Wellington 5012, Ph: 0274989126