

From: s9(2)(a)
Subject: Invitation to Local Government Commission workshops on improving transport in Wellington region
Date: Thursday, 26 May 2016 10:01:05 a.m.
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Kia Ora

The Local Government Commission (the Commission) would like to invite you, as a representative of an umbrella group which may be interested in transport, to attend a workshop "**Improving transport in Wellington region**". Your views will help us develop our work in this important area.

Details of the workshops are given below.

Context

The Commission is an independent statutory body whose main role is to make decisions on how local authorities should be structured and what electoral representation is needed to ensure efficient, effective and accountable local government.

Mid-2013 applications from the Greater Wellington Regional Council and the Wairarapa district councils for local government reorganisation led to the Commission's proposal for a region-wide unitary authority. In June 2015, the Commission decided not to proceed with this proposal due to lack of public support. Instead, because about 40 per cent of submissions suggested alternatives to the status quo, the Commission decided to return to the community and to work with it to achieve some consensus on the challenges it faced, and to collaborate in identifying possible options to address the challenges.

Since then the Commission has been working with the Wellington Region Mayoral Forum, chief executives and councils to look for opportunities to strengthen the Wellington region. Together the parties agreed to progress work in three main areas:

- transport (with councils and the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA))
- regional spatial planning
- Wairarapa governance (with the three Wairarapa district councils and the regional council).

Initial work to identify potential options

The transport work is at an early stage. Our focus is on whether there are appropriate options to improve how the region's transport is planned, delivered and governed.

An initial report, to start the consideration of appropriate options for strengthening transport in the Wellington region, has been prepared by Castalia Strategic Advisors <http://www.lgc.govt.nz/assets/Wellington-Transport/Wellington-Regional-Transport-Report-March-2016.pdf>. A separate indicative business case report is now being

developed to analyse the feasible options in more detail. Your ideas and feedback through the workshops will be a valuable contribution to the indicative business case report.

Workshops

You are invited to attend one of the following workshops to share your ideas on:

- What are the key problems with transport across the region?
- How could transport be better planned, delivered and governed?

Wellington – Monday, 13 June

10.00am – 12.00pm
CAANZ Conference Centre
Level 7, 50 Customhouse Quay
Wellington

Wairarapa – Thursday, 23 June

10.00am – 12.00pm
Joe Rewi Room
Greytown Town Centre, 89 Main Street
Greytown

Kapiti – Monday, 4 July

10.00am – 12.00pm
Kapiti Pavillion
10 Scaife Drive
Paraparaumu

Lower Hutt – Monday, 4 July

2.30pm – 4.30pm
The Dowse Art Museum
45 Laings Road
Lower Hutt

Please RSVP to s9(2)(a) by 3 June 2016, giving your choice of workshop venue.

Yours sincerely

s9(2)(a)
Chief Executive