

Reference Number: 2023/997

27 July 2023

[Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

Tēnā koe [Redacted]

### Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 21 July 2023. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

**“Copy of any letters sent to the Minister of Transport, Hon. David Parker, from the Horowhenua District Council, since 21 June 2023”**

Please see attached the letter Horowhenua District Council has sent to the Minister of Transport since 21 June 2023.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or free phone 0800 802 602.

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.


If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact the LGOIMA Officer on [LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz)

Ngā mihi



Monique Davidson  
Chief Executive

19 July 2023

Hon David Parker  
Minister of Transport  
E: 

Dear Minister Parker

### **Ōtaki to North of Levin (Ō2NL) – Construction Phase Funding**

Thank you for your letter received 7 July 2023, in response to our letter dated 15 March 2023.

We are surprised and concerned that your letter gives the indication that the Ō2NL project still needs sign off from the Cabinet Joint Committee and no indication as to when that decision might be made.

Following the former Minister of Transport, Michael Wood's response to a question in Parliament on 17 May 2023, the subsequent press release from his office the next day, plus a conversation that we had when the Minister was in Levin to highlight the Capital Connection service upgrade, we were delighted to be able to inform our community that the uncertainty over the construction phase of the Ō2NL project was over and not something we needed to be concerned about. We felt that we were in a position to turn our attention to preparing for Ō2NL.

With this latest revelation, those in our community who are directly impacted by Ō2NL will once again have to place their lives on hold and anxiously wait to find out, if and when they will have to uproot and move on. It is unfair and misleading that Central Government have given the impression that the project will commence in 2025, when in fact the funding for the project has not been fully committed.

The Ō2NL project is the most transformational project that this district will ever be part of and is the major catalyst for the significant growth that is forecast for not only the Horowhenua, but wider region. Not only is it a critical part of the future planning for this district, it also provides a safe and resilient state highway network that has been lacking for many years.

It is our job to advocate for our community and as such, we are seeking confirmation of the funding commitment for the entire project, including the construction phase. This will ensure the project achieves legacy outcomes that will benefit not just this generation, but those yet to come.

Yours sincerely



Bernie Wanden, JP  
**District Mayor**



Monique Davidson  
**Chief Executive**

*Cc Terisa Ngobi, MP Ōtaki*