

14 January 2019

Chris Bishop
Member of Parliament for Hutt South
chris.bishop@parliament.govt.nz

REF: NZT-3533

Dear Mr Bishop

Thank you for your letter of 12 December 2018, and the petition you have attached regarding the proposed improvements at the Melling Interchange.

As you know, the NZ Transport Agency's Melling Transport Improvements component of RiverLink was one of the projects identified for re-evaluation to ensure it gives effect to the Government Policy Statement on land transport (<https://nzta.govt.nz/planning-and-investment/national-land-transport-programme/project-re-evaluations/>)

In considering investment priorities for the 2018-21 National Land Transport Programme, we balance improving safety and access, protecting the environment, and value for money. This means the construction timing, and form of the project will depend on growth and funding priorities across the country.

We appreciate people's patience as we have worked through this important re-evaluation process and we are working as quickly as we can to provide the best outcomes and value for money for communities now and in the future.

We expect to be able to make announcements about decisions on these projects in the New Year.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Emma Speight, Director Regional Relationships (Lower North Island), by email to emma.speight@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

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Michael Stiassny
Board Chair