

**From:** [Mich'eal Downard](#)  
**To:** [Simeon Brown \(MIN\)](#)  
**Subject:** INV23-271 Acknowledgment Letter to Minister of Transport  
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Tēnā koe Hon Simeon Brown  
Please see attached letter.  
Ngā mihi nui  
Mich'eal

**Mich'eal Downard** | COUNCILLOR - TAUPŌ-ROTORUA GENERAL | Council, committees and sub committee  
WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL | Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato

M: [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

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13 December 2023

Dear Hon Simeon Brown

**RE: Acknowledgement of your letter sent via email 12 December 2023**

Thank you for letter outlining the changes you have made to the Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2022 (the Rule) to revoke the deadlines set by the NZTA, including the 29 March 2024 deadline for submitting the final draft speed management plans for certification.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister for Transport. Our Regional Transport Committee look forward to working with you and the Ministry of Transport to develop your ambition to “focus on reducing travel times and to create a more productive and resilient transport network that drives economic growth to boost incomes and unlock land for houses.”

You will be aware that Regional Councils are developing Regional Land Transport Plans (RLTPs). I can see clear alignment with our draft RLTP for the Waikato and the focus areas you have highlighted. The Transport Committee have key objectives identified for:

- Growth and economic development
- Resilience
- Safety
- Accessibility and transport choice
- Climate change

Our Regional Transport Committee has recently identified our most important projects for consultation as part of the RLTP:

Resolving safety and resilience issues at Bulli Point and SH1 around Lake Taupo (including bypass options), Coromandel resilience activities associated with recent weather events, but also Coromandel town bypass development, and Cambridge to Piarere safety and capacity improvements.

In the high growth areas of Hamilton City, Waipa and Waikato Districts, a number of projects arising from the Future Proof Partnership and Hamilton-Waikato Metro Spatial Plan Transport Programme are identified to deliver housing and employment whilst reducing transport congestion and carbon emissions, supporting the Waikato as a great place to live, work and play.

The Transport Committee continue to support and advocate for rail as a solution to improve interregional transport, we are hoping to see more investment in rail freight to support our logistics hubs in the ‘golden

triangle' and the continuation of investment in Te Huia which supports growth along the Hamilton to Auckland corridor.

The Waikato remains a region that has a high number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads; we would like to continue to see investment in safety projects and programmes that will significantly reduce the impact of poor road safety on our communities.

I look forward to seeing the Government Policy statement for Transport in due course and hope that we can see a clear way forward for the delivery of our most important transport projects. I would be very happy to meet to discuss our regional priorities in more detail and to wish you success in your role in person.

Yours faithfully,

s 9(2)(a)

Mich'ael Downard  
Chair Regional Transport Committee