

Out of Scope

From: Councillor Diane Calvert <@>

Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 1:01 PM

To: @; Nicole Rosie <@>

Cc: Councillor Nicola Young <@>; Councillor Tony Randle <@>; Councillor Ray Chung <@>

Subject: Thorndon Quay, Wellington - transport project

Kia ora Simon and Nicole

Please attached a letter from four Wellington City Councillors articulating their concerns and that of many constituents (residents and businesses) that they represent in respect of the work being currently undertaken on Thorndon Quay (funded 51% by NZTA).

Regards

Diane

Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

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9 July 2024

Simon Bridges – Chair, NZTA

Nicole Rosie - Chief Executive, NZTA

By email

Dear Simon and Nicole,

In July 2023, NZTA's board approved the Thorndon Quay/Hutt Road project under the Let's Get Wellington Moving programme [Thorndon Quay | WCC Transport Projects](#). However, this decision sparked controversy primarily due to concerns over the justification of benefits, design issues, and inadequate engagement with local businesses.

Subsequent developments have revealed a lack of critical oversights and design omissions, notably the absence of water infrastructure renewal considerations despite the age of pipes exceeding 110 years.

[Wellington's Thorndon Quay business owners fear road upgrade woes far from over | RNZ](#)

['A disaster unfolding': Businesses face nine months of Thorndon Quay roadworks | The Post](#)

[Water pipe bursts under Wellington woman's car: 'Written off' \(1news.co.nz\)](#)

Additionally, recent observations have highlighted the installation of five raised signalised crossings on an 1.8 km stretch of road that has a 30km speed limit, raising concerns over excessive spending and their appropriateness especially given the location of essential emergency services nearby, including the main ambulance station (50 metres from the route) and a central city fire station (on the route). [Traffic light crossing bonanza raises hackles | The Post](#)

Fire and Emergency Wellington have previously told both council and elected members via submissions that raised pedestrian crossings and speed bumps are increasing the time it takes for their crews to get to emergency callouts.

Concerns have also been voiced by Greater Wellington Regional Council/ Metlink regarding raised crossings impacting a major bus route, although there appears to be hesitation in advocating for a redesign with Wellington City Council.

There are currently two public petitions calling for work to be halted.

[Petition: Save Thorndon Quay - Taxpayers' Union](#)

[Petition · Halt Thorndon Quay Roadworks until an independent project review is completed. - Wellington, New Zealand · Change.org](#)

Wellington City Council, while overseeing the project, seems reluctant to acknowledge design flaws and has not considered pausing to ensure the effective use of the substantial budget allocated.

Considering NZTA's substantial funding commitment of 51%, we urge you to consider the widespread and growing concerns expressed by the public, elected members, and other organisations.

Specifically, we request clarification on NZTA's monitoring of their contribution and the adherence to best practice roading design to:

- Address the significant public concerns raised about the design in terms of the raised crossings (including proposed numbers) and the lack of investment in renewing the ageing water infrastructure.
- Ensure the ongoing suitability of the project design.
- Ensure that construction adheres to agreed-upon specifications.
- Implement robust quality assurance measures to guarantee the efficacy of NZTA's contribution and the realisation of anticipated benefits.

Given the significance of the issues, we also suggest you consider an independent review to consider the above concerns. Such a review could be conducted in conjunction with Wellington City Council who along with NZTA have been closely involved with this project through design and funding. It would be appropriate for the project to be paused in the meantime.

Work on this route is currently underway but is not due to be completed until June 2025. We would appreciate you considering our concerns (and any forthcoming action) as a matter of urgency.

Regards



Cllr Diane Calvert



Cllr Ray Chung



Cllr Tony Randle



Cllr Nicola Young