

By email

25 May 2016

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Iain Palmer

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Dear Mr Palmer

Request for information 2016 - 044

I refer to your request for information dated 18 May 2016, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council on 18 May 2016. You have requested the following information:

“What considerations have been given into the preservation of a Ganz Mavag EMU within the Wellington Region in addition to the unit (called SuperGanz) persevered at Ferrymead, Christchurch.”

Greater Wellington Regional Council’s (GWRC’s) response follows.

The preserved Ganz Mavag two-car unit includes a refurbished EM motor car 1373 (known as SuperGanz) and its ET trailer car 3373. The decision to preserve the Ganz Mavag unit was made on the ground that it is desirable to retain a portion of Wellington’s Railway history in New Zealand. GWRC then considered a number of options to make sure that preservation of the unit would be accomplished in a reasonably acceptable and cost-effective manner. This included the consideration that interested heritage organisations would be able to prove they have the resources and capacity required to preserve the heritage rolling stock.

GWRC asked the Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand to identify any rail heritage organisations which would be interested in the preservation of the 1373 Ganz Mavag unit. As a result, the Canterbury Railway Society (CRS) was recommended, which is located at Ferrymead in Christchurch. CRS has an electrical traction system capable of operating the Ganz Mavag, and has an existing collection of commuter rail vehicles, including two 2-Car English Electrics, one owned by CRS and another by the National Rail Museum. CRS has also proven its ability to maintain, preserve and operate rolling stock, and proposed to loan and display the Ganz Mavag unit at the National Railway Museum (also located at Ferrymead). CRS have also arranged transportation to Christchurch with KiwiRail at no cost to GWRC or Greater Wellington Rail Limited (GWRL).

GWRC also considered a proposal by the Wellington Heritage Multiple Unit Preservation Trust (WHMUPT), who also showed their willingness to receive and preserve the Ganz Mavag unit.

RESPONSE TO OIA 2016 - 044



WHMUPT was primarily formed to take ownership of a 3-car English Electric, also known as Cyclops, which is held on the premises of the Rimutaka Incline Railway Heritage Trust in Maymorn. While WHMUPT is local, it was clear from the proposed terms that the organisation had minimal resources available to take on the preservation of additional rail assets. Based on the proposed terms, GWRC needed to bear the cost of transportation and related insurance of the unit, and had to provide further assistance and resources through KiwiRail to prepare the access track and the site in advance of the unit arriving at the Maymorn facility. Further discussions with WHMUPT revealed that they were not in a position to fund the receipt of the Ganz Mavag, and hence the unit was donated to Canterbury Railway Society.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Hastie
General Manager, Public Transport