

14 December 2017

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

Sent by email: P.Twyford@ministers.govt.nz
G.Robertson@ministers.govt.nz

Dear Phil and Grant

Thank you for your letter of 22 November about how we progress our collective priorities for Auckland.

I agree that a close working partnership between Auckland Council and central government is critical in achieving the best long-term outcomes for Auckland, and therefore, for New Zealand. In this context, you raised three particular areas for working together in your letter.

A joint and agreed development strategy

I share your view that an agreed and joint development strategy, focused on the critical priorities for Auckland's housing and infrastructure development, makes sense. I understand that council staff have been working with MBIE officials on a draft Terms of Reference for this work, which ensures that it complements and builds upon other work streams underway, including the Auckland Transport Alignment Project (ATAP) refresh. I hope these can be agreed before the Christmas break.

Refresh of ATAP recommendations

Council staff have also been working with Ministry of Transport officials on the draft Terms of Reference for the ATAP refresh. Again, it would be ideal if this could be agreed before the Christmas break. I would like, in this context, to emphasise the importance I attach to ensuring that the ATAP refresh focuses on identifying a balanced set of transport infrastructure priorities across the Auckland region.

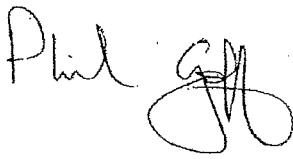
Regional Fuel Tax

Thank you for your assurance that legislation for a regional fuel tax will be passed with urgency, in 2018. As we have discussed, the ability to implement a regional fuel tax (RFT) as soon as practical will provide a critical new revenue stream for Auckland Council to fund transport infrastructure priorities, particularly those identified by ATAP.

I believe that it is very important that the legislation introducing the RFT will ensure that Council has the appropriate flexibility to expend revenues derived from it, on both the capital and operational costs of building and operating transport infrastructure.

Because of the statutory timeframe of our 10-year budget, pace is of the essence for all three areas of work. I strongly encourage this work being done as a matter of urgency and in the shortest time possible.

Yours sincerely



Phil Goff
MAYOR OF AUCKLAND
And on behalf of the Mayoral Housing Taskforce

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