

Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister of Transport

Associate Minister of Finance



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Daran Ponter
Chair, Greater Wellington Regional Council
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Dear Daran

Rapid Review into KiwiRail

You will be aware that the Government launched a Rapid Review into KiwiRail in May 2023, following the major disruptions on the Wellington metro rail networks because of KiwiRail's EM80 track evaluation car being unavailable to inspect railway tracks.

We understand that the reviewers undertook in-depth interviews with key people from your organisation, and from those of your contracted passenger rail operator, and that they appreciated the responsiveness and openness shown.

We, the sponsoring Ministers of the Rapid Review, have considered the findings and recommendations of the Rapid Review, that is now published on the Ministry of Transport's website (<https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Report-into-Rapid-Review-of-KiwiRail-Passenger-Services.pdf>).

While the Rapid Review identified the operational causes that led to the EM80 failure, it more importantly identified broader system issues, that contributed to the incident, especially in the areas of governance, funding settings, and system-level objectives for rail. We have directed the Ministry of Transport to lead a review of the Metropolitan Rail Operating Model, considering those system level issues.

Metro rail is growing in scale and complexity. It is an increasingly important part of the transport system to reduce emissions and achieve urban development objectives. Improving passenger experience should be front of mind of all parties involved in running the metro rail system.

We understand that the Ministry of Transport, Waka Kotahi, KiwiRail, Auckland Transport, and Greater Wellington Regional Council are using the Metro Rail System Standing Group (MRSSG) as the forum to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the review recommendations. We appreciate the contribution that your staff make in this forum.

We support the use of this forum to discuss and monitor the implementation of the recommendations and expect Greater Wellington Regional Council and your contracted rail operators to continue working constructively with other parties in implementing the Rapid Review recommendations. We have asked our officials to provide us with a quarterly update on progress. We would welcome any direct feedback from you at any stage.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon David Parker
Minister of Transport