

15 June 2023

File Ref: EXTREL-893300156-5492

Hon Kieran McAnulty
Acting Minister of Transport
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēna koe Minister

Budget 2023 - Expanding the Community Connect Initiative

Greater Wellington Regional Council fully supports the recent announcement regarding expanding the Community Connect Initiative.

As you may be aware, Greater Wellington faces a significant challenge in the implementation of this initiative; specifically in respect of the age-registration/identity verification associated with two groups: 17–25-year-olds who are not in secondary or tertiary education; and 5 to 12 year-olds. This was signalled to Waka Kotahi well in advance of Budget 2023.

To enable Greater Wellington to provide fare subsidies from 1 July 2023, we ask that you consider a flexible approach to the use of implementation funding to support interim fare arrangements ahead of our full deployment of the initiative from later in Q3 2023.

Between 1 July 2023 and the completion of an age verification portal, Greater Wellington will look to continue half price fares until mechanisms are in place to offer free fares for under-13s, and half-price fares for 17–25-year-olds who are not in secondary or tertiary education. We seek a Crown contribution of \$2million per month to support these transitional arrangements.

Greater Wellington will use best endeavours to implement the new fares concessions as soon as possible.

Ngā mihi



Daran Ponter

Chair
Greater Wellington

CC:
Rt Hon Chris Hipkins, Prime Minister

Hon Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance

Hon Ginny Andersen, MP Hutt South