

6 March 2019

Ray Wallace
Mayor of Lower Hutt
By email: ray.wallace@huttcity.govt.nz

RE: Kelson / Kennedy Good Bridge Intersection

Dear Ray

I am writing to you to about the Major Drive, SH2 and Kennedy Good Intersection in Lower Hutt.

As I'm sure you are aware, a new housing subdivision is underway in Kelson. The developers plan to seek resource consent for around 230 homes, to be progressively built over the next five years.

While much needed new housing is welcome in the Hutt, this will place pressure on existing infrastructure, particularly in Kelson which has only one road (Major Drive) in and out of the suburb.

For context, the 2013 census located 987 occupied dwellings in Kelson, so an extra 230 houses is a 25 per cent increase. That is a significant increase and a proportionate infrastructure response is needed.

The existing intersection is a notorious choke point at peak times, and it is a safety risk. I am worried this will get worse in coming years with the new subdivision.

I have written to the NZ Transport Agency and asked them to prioritise work on upgrading this intersection. Unfortunately, the NZTA Chief Executive advised me that they only "expect to have business case investigations included in the next National Land Transport Programme for 2021-2024". In other words, it could be at least five years before investigations into upgrading the interchange even begin, with construction many years after that.

I am sure you agree that is not good enough. The new subdivision requires an appropriate infrastructure response from both local and central government. In that regard, I would welcome you directing your transport officials to work closely with NZTA in the coming weeks and months to help them see the necessity of beginning planning on the intersection upgrade.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Chris Bishop
MP for Hutt South