

14 December 2020

Daran Ponter
Chair
Greater Wellington Regional Council
WELLINGTON

By email: daran.ponter@gw.govt.nz

Dear Daran,

AIRPORT FLYER

On 11 December 2020, myself, Ginny Andersen MP, Chris Bishop MP and Cr Deborah Hislop met with representatives of Wellington Airport and Tranzit to discuss the future of the Airport Flyer and its presence in Lower Hutt.

We are writing to you to ask that the Greater Wellington Regional Council adds the Airport Flyer to its public network and continues the service to Lower Hutt.

From our discussion with Wellington Airport and Tranzit, it is clear that there are a number of barriers to getting the service up and running reliably. Notably, they have not been supported in gaining access to real time information and the Snapper card payment system.

Wellington Airport and Tranzit have made it clear that servicing Lower Hutt is not viable without assistance from the GWRC. As stated previously by GWRC Transport Director Wayne Hastie in a Parliamentary Transport Committee in 2018, if the commercial service could not run by itself, GWRC would look into ways to connect our communities to the airport.

This begs the question, why doesn't the service get picked up as part of the public network? Wellington Airport have made it clear to us that they are open to this as a solution.

Making it part of the public network would also ensure that the service can continue to the Hutt Valley. As well as providing a direct service to the airport, the Flyer will also support a direct service to other parts of Wellington city for those travelling from Lower Hutt.

Having an efficient Airport Flyer service supported by a GWRC subsidy would get people out of private cars, cut journey times, and play an important role as part of a well-integrated transport network for the Wellington Region.

Lower Hutt is the second largest city in the Wellington region, with a population growing at an extraordinary pace. It is also home to a conference centre that hosts national events and a soon to be completed hotel.

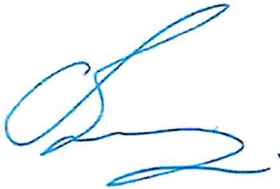
To support the rising number of visitors to our city, Lower Hutt needs a regular and direct service to and from Wellington Airport. That is why we are calling on you to step up and include our city as part of the future network.

We have been disappointed with the GWRC's reluctance to engage positively in a solution for our residents and ratepayers, and again, we feel that our people have been forgotten.

From our conversation, it is clear that without action from the GRWC, an airport service won't return to the Hutt Valley.

We are more than happy to meet with you to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Campbell Barry', with a stylized, cursive script.

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ginny Andersen', with a cursive script.

Ginny Andersen
MP for Hutt South

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bishop', with a cursive script.

Chris Bishop
List MP based in Hutt South

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Hislop', with a cursive script.

Cr Deborah Hislop
City-wide Councillor, Hutt City Council