

27 July 2021

Chris Bishop  
[christopher.bishop@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:christopher.bishop@parliament.govt.nz)

Ref. NZT-6218

Dear Chris

Thank you for your emails of 24 May and 29 June 2021 regarding safety improvements for SH2 Hutt Valley and the Grounsell Crescent intersection.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is saddened by the news of the recent fatality. I would like to assure you that we remain committed to providing a safe and forgiving state highway network which prioritises the safety of its users.

We are currently working on pedestrian crossing improvements which aim to increase safety at the Grounsell Crescent intersection. The focus for the project is to reduce the risk of pedestrians being distracted and stepping out onto the road before the walk phase has begun or without signalling the walk phase.

I am pleased to advise that work is also underway on safety improvements for SH2 which will improve safety on this section of the network. The project will be carried out as part of the 2021-24 National Land Transport Programme and is expected to include median barriers, intersection speed zones and raised safety platforms.

In addition to the planned infrastructure improvements, Waka Kotahi is preparing to engage with the community on the SH2 Hutt Valley speed review. Feedback gained during engagement plays an important role in the setting of speed limits as it helps us decide whether lowering the speed limit is the best option to improve road safety, where new speed limits might begin and end, and if any other safety improvements might be required.

The Government has also confirmed that the Melling Transport Improvements on SH2 will be fully delivered as planned. The NZ Upgrade Programme is funding the construction of a new, safer SH2 interchange, a new road bridge, including shared paths, over Te Awa Kairangi, a relocated Melling train station, and new walking and cycling paths.

Waka Kotahi welcomes the opportunity to meet with the local community to discuss their concerns regarding road safety. We are now working to refine the package of improvements along SH2,

including the Grounsell Crescent intersection. Once we have refined the package of options, we will arrange a suitable time to engage the community on the proposals.

Yours sincerely

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

**Emma Speight**

Director Regional Relationships (Wellington/Wairarapa/Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough)