



At last! NZTA commit to “fixing the gap” in visionary Great Harbour Way

The Great Harbour Way/ Te Aranui o Pōneke Trust hailed NZTA’s decision to proceed with funding the iconic Hutt Valley-Wellington cycling and walking seaward path, announced by Minister Julie Anne Genter at Point Jerningham.

“Today’s announcement gives certainty for the completion of the Great Harbour Way/Te Aranui o Pōneke. It finally addresses the long-running lack of a safe walking and cycling link between two major cities,” Trust Chair Graeme Hall said today.

“The Great Harbour Way, a 72-km track around Wellington Harbour, has been promoted by the Trust for well over a decade, and creating a wide, safe, scenic track between Petone and Ngauranga is an essential part of the project. NZTA agreed to back this in principle in 2015. Minister Genter’s announcement today to go ahead with this project means we can all look forward to the many benefits this wonderful asset will bring the region,” Hall said.

“The Government has committed to act on climate change and this is an example of real positive action,” Hall said. “Building a safe, attractive path on the seaward side of the railway will encourage more people to choose to walk, run, cycle or scoot along this exquisite route.”

“This project ticks every box – getting more people to walk and cycle, easing car and parking congestion, improving railway protection, boosting climate action, improving earthquake resilience, facilitating significant health benefits, and contributing to the creation of a great tourism asset.”

Former Wellington Mayor and GHW Trustee, Celia Wade-Brown, representing Living Streets Aotearoa, said the Great Harbour Way/Te Aranui o Pōneke, was a world-class prospect for locals and tourists alike, for both recreation and commuting.

“Fixing the gap between Petone and Ngauranga is the most complex challenge for completing the 72km Great Harbour Way. Fixing the gap will enable walkers, runners and cyclists in the capital to connect with the Remutaka Trail and links the Hutt Valley through to the scenic South Coast.” says Ms Wade-Brown. “Trustees have tirelessly advocated for the Great Harbour Way and this is significant progress.”

Ron Beernink, member of Cycle Aware Wellington and the Hutt Cycling Network, commutes by bike along SH2 from Petone every day. He says “The current state of SH2 puts cyclists at the daily risk of death. This project is long overdue.”

Wellington City Council has also made progress with the Oriental Bay cycleway and today’s blessing of the work between Point Jerningham and Evans Bay, also a significant part of the Great Harbour Way.

The NZTA plan is for a seaward wide path with separation between walkers and cyclists where feasible. The pathway will add significantly more resilience to the vital rail link that was disrupted in 2013 for six days by a storm.

Great Harbour Way trustees Graeme Hall, Ron Beernink and Celia Wade-Brown will join Minister Genter and others at the announcement at Point Jerningham, Wellington from 7:45 a.m. on 11th April 2019.

RELEASE ENDS

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The Great Harbour Way/ Te Aranui o Pōneke is a 72 km walking and cycling route around Te Whanganui-a-tara, the harbour of Wellington, Aotearoa, from Fitzroy Bay in the east to Sinclair Head in the west. Few, if any, opportunities exist elsewhere in the world to walk, run or cycle the entire coastline of a major city harbour, continually touching the water's edge.

The route is integral to the region's active transport network, including links between Petone and Melling and Ngauranga and the Wellington CBD, the Hutt River-Remutuka cycleway.



<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/About-us-2/docs/board-meeting-minutes-2017/minutes-20181214.pdf> - see Resolution 20.

8.5 Wellington to Hutt Valley Walking and Cycling Link Programme: Approval to proceed to next phase for the Ngauranga to Petone section

Board paper 2018/12/1326

The Board noted that the Associate Minister of Transport Center supported the Transport Agency taking a leadership role in the delivery of this programme.

The paper was discussed, with a particular focus on resilience benefits.

Resolution 20	<p><i>The NZ Transport Agency Board:</i></p> <p>a) Endorses the seaward side walking and cycling facility for the Ngauranga to Petone section of the Wellington to Hutt Valley (W2HV) Walking and Cycling Link Programme, as recommended in the 2018 Addendum to the Detailed Business Case for the W2HV Walking and Cycling Link Programme that was approved in 2015.</p>
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	<p>b) Approves funding to the NZ Transport Agency of \$7.2 million for the Ngauranga to Petone section pre-implementation phase from the walking and cycling activity class.</p> <p>c) Notes the implementation cost of the Ngauranga to Petone section is expected to be \$76 million (50th percentile), with an upper estimate of \$94 million (95th percentile).</p> <p>d) Delegates to the NZ Transport Agency Chief Executive approval for implementation of the Ngauranga to Petone section, up to the 95th percentile upon conclusion of the statutory consenting phase.</p>
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