



Office of Hon Mark Gosche
Minister of Transport
Minister of Housing
Minister of Pacific Island Affairs
MP for Maungakiekie

Attachment / Report
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14 MAR 2000

Mr Stuart Macaskill,
Chair
Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11-646,
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr. Macaskill,

The Wellington Regional Council has recently sent a letter to a wide variety of groups and individuals announcing that it intends to cap Total Mobility expenditure from July 2000 onwards. The letter makes it clear that this decision would increasingly exclude a number of groups from access to Total Mobility services.

Since it took office this Government has been reviewing two policy areas that are likely to have a major impact on this proposal.

- The Minister of Health is developing a New Zealand Disability Strategy to include goals, targets and priorities to remove the barriers to participation for people with disabilities.
- I am working to develop new policies for funding passenger transport as well as a New Zealand Transport Strategy.

Decisions on all these issues will be made during 2000.

At the Local Government Summit held earlier this month, both the Government and Local Government New Zealand agreed that communication and consultation between the parties was the key to a successful outcome, and that we would both seek to improve our relationship. I believe that it is crucial that we have open communication between us as we develop long term policies for passenger transport in general and Total Mobility in particular.

In this context, I would ask that the Wellington Regional Council defer its proposed decision to cap funding for Total Mobility until the Government's policies in this area have been decided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Gosche', written in a cursive style.

Hon Mark Gosche
Minister of Transport