

Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for Infrastructure, MP Hutt South  
Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Local Government  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

15 January 2024

**Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink)**

Tēnā kōrua Chris and Simeon,

I hope you were able to get a restful break over the Christmas and New Year period after a demanding 2023.

I wanted to write to you both directly about Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink).

This project is of vital importance for Lower Hutt, and the wider Wellington region. Lower Hutt is the most densely populated flood plain in New Zealand. Once complete, Te Awa Kairangi RiverLink will provide our valley floor with protection from a once in a 440-year flood event, along with far safer travel along State Highway 2, improved public transport connections, and urban rejuvenation through housing and other development activity.

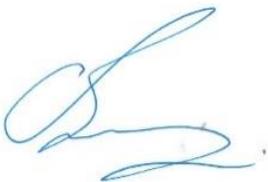
Last week, the project announced that flood protection work will start this summer at Mills Street. This is a really positive development, but of course there is still a lot more work to do. It is vital that we are collectively able to deliver an affordable, value for money project that delivers transformative change to our city with the widest possible benefits.

Given that seven weeks have now passed since the new government was sworn in, it is timely for all partners in this project to come together for a joint briefing and discussion. As governors and partners in this project, it is important that we are all on the same page and working together through any challenges ahead. It would be good to have time together with and without officials present.

I suggest that we find a time in February to meet to discuss this partnership further. I would be pleased to host in my office, but I am more than happy to come into Parliament if that is easier for you both.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ngā mihi,



**Campbell Barry**  
Mayor of Lower Hutt

Cc Daran Ponter, Will Peet, Emma Speight