



Ministry of Transport: Aide Memoire

To: Hon Phil Twyford
From: Amelia East, Project Director, Auckland Light Rail
Date: 10 October 2019
Subject: Meeting with Infrastructure New Zealand CE Paul Blair on 11 October 2019
OC Number: OC190990

Purpose of this aide memoire

1. This aide memoire provides you with information on the Auckland Light Rail project in preparation for your meeting with Paul Blair, CE of Infrastructure NZ on Friday 11 October at 7.30am.

Background to the meeting

2. The Auckland Light Rail project is one of the topics that Mr Blair has indicated he wishes to discuss at this meeting.
3. As you are aware, due to the process underway with the Respondents, there are necessarily strict limits to what you can say about the project to Mr Blair.
4. Bryn Gandy, Deputy CE - Strategy and Investment and Amelia East, Project Director for the Auckland Light Rail project will attend this meeting to support you and listen to Mr Blair's comments.
5. We expect that during the meeting Mr Blair may ask about the following topics which he has previously shown an interest in:
 - 5.1. The outcomes for the project
 - 5.2. The effectiveness and speed of the process
 - 5.3. Funding and finances
 - 5.4. The technical solution
 - 5.5. How the decision will be made
6. Given the process, all of these topics are 'out of bounds' for discussion. However, you could tell him that you intend to talk more about the project outcomes at an Auckland Transport hosted industry event on 30 October.
7. The outcomes are published in the Response Requirements Document (RRD). These were agreed to by the Ministerial Group.

8. A summary of the outcomes is on the Ministry of Transport website and they are as follows:
 - 8.1. **Access and Integration** - Improved access to employment, education and other opportunities through enhancing Auckland's Rapid Transit Network and integration with Auckland's current and future transport network.
 - 8.2. **Environment** - Optimised environmental quality and embedded sustainable practices.
 - 8.3. **Urban and Community** - Enabling of quality integrated urban communities, especially around Māngere, Onehunga and Mt Roskill.
 - 8.4. **Customer Experience** - A high-quality service that is attractive to users, with high levels of patronage.

Confidence in the process

9. It will be important to reassure Mr Blair that the process is being run effectively and with a high degree of expert input.
10. The lead team includes a former Board member of Infrastructure NZ and head of PPP at The Treasury.
11. Although the Ministry is the lead agency it is not making decisions alone. The Advisory Group is made up of CEs from Auckland Council, Auckland Transport, KiwiRail, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, NZTA, SSC, and The Treasury.
12. The Ministry has input from Audit NZ to ensure the process does not favour one party over the other.
13. The RRD was extensively consulted on before it was given to the Respondents.

Infrastructure NZ's role

14. It would be worth acknowledging Mr Blair's keen interest in the project and that his organisation's membership represent a wealth of expertise that will be invaluable to the project in due course. However, at this stage in proceedings it would be most helpful if he could wait for the process to run its course.

Contact:

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Withheld to protect the privacy of natural persons