

# HON NIKKI KAYE MP FOR AUCKLAND CENTRAL



PO Box 47 658, PONSONBY 1144

4 April 2017

Hon David Bennett  
Associate Minister of Transport  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Dear Minister

I recently met with the local board and several groups of constituents on Great Barrier Island who raised with me the issue of Gold Card parity with Waiheke island another Island in my electorate.

Boat transport to Waiheke gives eligible seniors and veterans free government funded off peak transport concessions, however, boat transport to Great Barrier Island does not.

I would appreciate any information you are able to give me on this disparity.

Yours sincerely

**Hon Nikki Kaye**  
**MP for Auckland Central**





## Office of Hon Simon Bridges

MP for Tauranga

Minister for Economic Development

Minister of Transport

Minister for Communications

Leader of the House

Associate Minister of Finance

29 MAY 2017

Hon Nikki Kaye  
MP for Auckland Central  
**PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Dear Nikki

Thank you for your letter dated 4 April 2017 to the then Associate Minister of Transport, Hon David Bennett, regarding the SuperGold Card transport concession scheme (the Scheme), and travel to and from Great Barrier Island. Your letter has been referred to me for reply as the matter you raise falls within my portfolio responsibilities. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

The Government sets the policy for public transport services eligible for the Scheme. The intent of the policy is to utilise off-peak capacity on regional public transport services. Regional public transport services are set out in regional councils' Regional Public Transport Plans.

Auckland Transport has identified the Devonport and Waiheke Island commercial ferry services as a core part of the Auckland public transport network. There are other commercial ferry services in Auckland that are not core to the public transport network, including the Great Barrier Island ferry service.

You will be aware that funding for the Scheme is capped, that this funding is fully allocated across regional councils' core public transport services, and that the current policy setting aims to achieve sustainable management of the Scheme's budget. The inclusion of a third commercial passenger service, which operates outside the regional public transport network, would be a significant change to this policy setting.

I note that a return trip fare to Great Barrier Island for a senior is currently \$92. This is well beyond other public transport fares to which the concession applies. I am also concerned that including a commercial passenger service, such as the Great Barrier Island ferry, would set a precedent for the concession to be applied to other longer distance ferry services such as Coromandel, Cook Strait and Foveaux Strait, some of which offer lower fares than the Great Barrier service.

Like all SuperGold cardholders, those living on Great Barrier Island are entitled to the SuperGold free off-peak public transport concession. This concession is available to them when travelling on regional public transport services anywhere in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bridges', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Simon Bridges  
**Minister of Transport**