

19 February 2020

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Regional Economic Development

Via email:

Tēnā koutou

UPPER NORTH ISLAND SUPPLY CHAIN STRATEGY – WORK PROGRAMME

On the 11th of February 2020 senior officials working on the report back to Cabinet on the Upper North Island Supply Chain Strategy Work Programme briefed Auckland Council's Planning Committee.

The Committee found this briefing, led by Ministry of Transport Deputy Chief Executive Nick Brown, useful and appreciated the time and professionalism of the officials.

The Planning Committee is clear on two main issues. Firstly, that it supports the need for the analysis you have commissioned from officials. Absolute robustness in the advice that officials will be giving to you and Cabinet is essential. To this end, Planning Committee members gave feedback to officials on aspects they feel are either missing, require expansion or greater emphasis. The need for objective evidence is paramount.

The second issue is that the Planning Committee is of the very strong view that it is not realistic nor desirable to have a report back to Cabinet as early as May 2020.

The work Ministers have commissioned requires extensive evidence gathering, modelling, option modelling and analysis, peer review and genuine consultation with other partners and mana whenua iwi. To achieve the robustness and quality of evidence required for this first stage of work is simply not doable in the May timeframe.

A decision on the location option for the port has significant long-term consequences for New Zealand as well as Auckland. For this reason, the Committee strongly urges you to extend the timeframe for report back to Cabinet to allow officials time to undertake the necessary analysis and engagement required to provide robust advice.

We are seeking a meeting with you and the Governing Body at your convenience to discuss the concerns of Auckland Council as the sole owners of the Ports of Auckland Ltd before any decisions are made.

Kind regards



Phil Goff
MAYOR OF AUCKLAND



Chris Darby
CHAIR, PLANNING COMMITTEE