



INFORM - ADVOCATE - EMPOWER

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council appreciates the opportunity to have its say on the future direction of Greater Wellington.

Public transport infrastructure

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council supports the level of investment in the public transport infrastructure.

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council would welcome an extension of the Gold Card concession until later in the day. The length of the journey effectively mean that those in the extremities of our region - Kāpiti and the Wairarapa - have a lesser time to receive the benefits of the the Gold Card concession. Perhaps this could be done in conjunction with the introduction of the new integrated electronic ticketing system.

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council also advocates the covering of the ramp access to Paraparaumu Railway station. The stairs are covered and have recently been refurbished, however the ramps are open to the weather. The users ramps are designed for are more susceptible to slips, and the consequences of a fall can be literally life changing.

Total Mobility Scheme

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council strongly supports the installation of wheelchair hoists in taxi vans to meet demand for the Total Mobility Scheme.

Seating

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council also supports promotional activities, behaviour change programmes, road safety programmes, and skills training activities. One of the most effective ways of increasing patronage of public transport is providing seating at bus stops and train stations. Many elderly people have difficulty standing while waiting for transport. The KCOPC supports expanding the programme to provide such seating, and thanks Greater Wellington for recent improvements.

Waikanae Park and Ride

A particular concern for the Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council is the Park and Ride facility at Waikanae, which has been full to overflowing for some time. Commuters' vehicles line SH1 and adjacent Waikanae streets. The Waikanae Community Board has expressed concerns on several occasions about the impact of commuters from outside the driving to Waikanae and overwhelming the already overcrowded streets with more parked cars. The possibility of the Capital Connection ceasing its service is likely to make a bad

situation even worse. This is especially so where commuters are having to park at the side of State Highway 1 where commuters in some cases have to cross a very busy highway.

When the expressway is opened the current State Highway 1 through Waikanae will become a local road. The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council submits that the Greater Wellington Regional Council pursues every opportunity presented at that time to provide sufficient capacity for the Park and Ride facility at Waikanae.

Otaki

In 2014 Regional Council officers discussed the possibility of diesel trains, including third-hand Auckland units, as a replacement service that could shuttle from Palmerston North, Levin and Otaki to Waikanae, where passengers would change to the Tranzmetro service.

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council supports further investigation of that possibility, and also that investigation to be extended to encompass ways of better supporting Otaki, which has been disgracefully neglected in terms of public transport options, to the extent that many residents of Otaki do not feel they are part of Greater Wellington.

Affordability

We note the intention to limit rates increases to an average of 6.5% per year over the 10 years of this plan. The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council points to the fact that this year New Zealand Superannuitants received a 2.07% increase. The 4.5% difference means that many of our retired people will experience a substantial lowering in their standard of living. It is been recently announced that the annual inflation just 0.1 per cent, with the probable consequence that New Zealand Superannuation will be held to close to current levels. The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council submits that the current trend in rates is not sustainable.