



Palmerston North City Council  
Private Bag 11034  
Palmerston North 4442

22 July 2021

**Attention Commissioners: Mr John Maassen (Chairman), Ms Judith Makinson, Ms Gina Sweetman, Ms Miria Pomare**

Dear Commissioners,

### **Notice of Requirement for Palmerston North Regional Freight Hub**

The Ministry of Education (the Ministry) made a submission on the Notice of Requirement (NOR) received by Palmerston North City Council from KiwiRail Holdings Limited (KiwiRail) for a designation to accommodate a new intermodal rail and freight hub, referred to as the Regional Freight Hub (RFH).

As outlined below, the Ministry has had constructive discussions with KiwiRail and supports the revised designation conditions included in Appendix 1 to the Planning Evidence of Ms Karen Bell. The Ministry therefore does not consider it necessary to attend the hearing scheduled to commence on Monday 9 August and requests that, in lieu of attendance, this letter be tabled for the Hearing Commissioners consideration.

#### The Ministry's submission

The Ministry's submission expressed overall support of the Notice of Requirement from KiwiRail for a designation to accommodate a new intermodal rail and freight hub provided that the following were taken into account:

1. An appropriate condition is in place for managing noise and vibration associated with construction including the requirement for the development and implementation of a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan with suitable monitoring conditions in place to manage any potential noise and vibration effects on the surroundings including Bunnythorpe School.
2. Further information on the potential impact of increased noise on the school was requested and an appropriate condition was requested to manage and monitor noise associated with the operation of the RFH on the surroundings including Bunnythorpe School. The condition may include the establishment of noise boundaries that protect the existing noise environment at the school.

In order to address the above concerns, the Ministry requested that KiwiRail engage with the Ministry in terms of the staging and timing of the development and to keep them informed of any potential activity that would have an impact on the school network and associated school sites and plan for future growth.

The Ministry also requested to be consulted on traffic effects during construction and operation.

#### Consultation post-submission

Following the submission, the Ministry met with KiwiRail Holdings Limited representative Ms Pam Butler in May 2021 to discuss the RFH and the Ministry's submission. Following the meeting, the Ministry provided Ms Butler with a set of proposed amendments to the proposed conditions of the designation. The Ministry advised that it would like to see the proposed amendments, or similar, adopted to ensure adverse impacts on Bunnythorpe School and other local schools are appropriately addressed.

#### The Ministry's response to the revised proposed conditions

KiwiRail has revised the proposed Designation conditions as included in Appendix 1 to the Planning Evidence of Ms Karen Bell. The Ministry considers that the revised conditions provide appropriate management of



potential effects on Bunnythorpe School and other local school. The Ministry therefore supports the final proposed designation conditions.

Should any further changes be made to these conditions, the Ministry requests the opportunity to review these to ensure adverse impacts on Bunnythorpe and other local schools are appropriately addressed.

Sincerely,



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**Kate Graham**  
**Planner – Beca Ltd**  
**(Consultant to the Ministry of Education)**  
**Date: 22/07/2021**