



Media Release: May 2019

SH58 to suffer from parking of new Petone-Grenada road

Putting the Petone-to-Grenada link road plans into indefinite limbo will hamstring the whole Wellington region's transport future, warn the Automobile Association and Road Transport Forum.

"It's staggering that there is no answer to when the region can expect a new plan for better links between Porirua and the Hutt Valley," says RTF Chief Executive Nick Leggett.

"Uncertainty makes it hard for businesses to keep growing, employing more people and keeping the economy moving. We need to know now what the strategic transport plans are for the Wellington region and what the timeframe is around rolling out those plans. If there is no strategic plan and no timeframe, then that is of great concern."

The NZ Transport Agency recently announced that while a link road is needed, the previous plan has been sent back to the drawing board. However, they admit that there is no Government funding available to even develop a new plan: *'the timing of this work will depend on funding availability and other nationwide funding priorities'*.

Kicking the can down the road on Petone-Grenada will have ramifications for many other parts of the transport network, with SH58 likely to feel the impact in the years ahead. At the rate things are going, the metaphorical can may be the only thing that is moving.

A 2016 report for NZTA on upgrading SH58 stated that: *'In the period after TG (Transmission Gully) opening but prior to P2G (Petone to Grenada) Link Road, flows increase significantly on SH58 and there are capacity concerns, with congestion problems (in the AM peak) for traffic approaching SH2.'*

Because the link road was expected to be open three years after Transmission Gully, these issues were viewed as manageable but now NZTA has said it will be 2028 before funding for any construction will be considered.

"Without the Petone-Grenada link we are looking at SH58 struggling to cope with traffic volumes and already bad congestion problems getting even worse," says AA Wellington District Chair Geordie Cassin.

"The people stuck in gridlock on SH2 and Ngauranga Gorge or waiting for goods to arrive don't want to hear that it's uncertain when work on a new plan can even begin, let alone the actual construction. We have to be urgently developing a new plan now."

The lack of funding to even progress a new plan for such an important project is also deeply worrying to the AA and RTF.

“We need to know that if a plan is developed that there is funding there to allow it to be built. It is a worry that Let’s Get Wellington Moving appears like it could suck up money for all future transport projects in the region for the next decade,” says Nick.

For more information contact:

Geordie Cassin

AA Wellington District Chair

M. 027 208 5583

Nick Leggett

Road Transport Forum Chief Executive

M. 021 248 2175