

MT COOK MOBILISED - informal feedback to the information gathering phase of the Basin Reserve Rooding project. Prepared for NZTA.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Mt Cook Mobilised members are very much in favour of strengthening and placing the highest priority on encouraging the use of public transport through the Basin Reserve area.

This should include concrete proposals in the way of enhancements to public transport. Failing to do this would risk dropping the ball on public transport, by leaving decisions on public transport to other parties at some later date.

If the proposals incorporate definite public transport actions, then that might affect future traffic flows more clearly, and possibly lead to modifications of the design, and maybe even save some money on construction.

As a suggestion, some buses could be re-routed via the Rugby St supermarket to make public transport more attractive to Tasman St residents and supermarket users.

Future rail and light rail options should be considered.

## ACTIVE TRANSPORT – WALKING AND CYCLING

There are huge numbers of pedestrians using the routes around the Basin Reserve area. The peak times are before and after school when students from the five schools in close proximity to the Basin are making their way to and from school (St Marks, Wellington College, Wellington East Girls School, Wellington High School and Mt Cook School).

Cyclists travel along Adelaide and around the Basin Reserve. Every effort should be made to make cycling a safe and attractive option and to encourage more cyclists.

## TRAFFIC FLOWS AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Mt Cook School already has issues with pedestrian safety for pupils crossing Taranaki St and Buckle St, and crossing Buckle St at the intersection with Tasman St where red-light runners are legion. Pedestrian safety at these intersections needs to be given special attention. A flyover may not only allow an increase in the volume of traffic, but is also likely to increase its speed along Buckle St, adding to the existing risks to pedestrians.

The large number of students crossing Adelaide Rd must be able to cross safely.

Detail on the likely changes to traffic flows in the surrounding streets, including the other big developments (listed in the next section below) should be included in the proposals for public comment. Mt Cook Mobilised is interested in impacts on traffic flows in John St, Adelaide Rd, Tasman St, Wallace St, Bidwill St, Cambridge and Kent Tce, Tory St and Taranaki St. If this

request is too complex for public consultation documents, we would very much appreciate it if an official could be designated as being available for discussions on traffic flows.

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IMPACTING TRAFFIC FLOWS

There will be increased traffic in the area from the two new supermarkets to be constructed – the Foodstuffs supermarket to be built on Rugby St, and the Progressive Enterprises supermarket to be built on the corner of John St and Adelaide Rd.

A new astroturf sports ground is being built above the Wellington Indoor Sports Centre at Rugby League Park, accessed from Hutchison Rd. This ground will be open daily until 9:30pm and will host teams from all over Wellington. This facility will include car parking for 70 - 90 cars.

The Kilbirnie Indoor Sports Centre will draw people from throughout Wellington, a large proportion of whom will pass through the Basin Reserve area to get to Kilbirnie.

## MEMORIAL PARK

Our first preference is to trench Buckle St (in a “cut and cover” solution) to expand the park in front of the war memorial. This would create a park that honours and pays respect to our armed forces and the sacrifices they have made, and would also create a strong focal point not only for national but for community activity and celebration. Moreover the existence of a roadway through what could become an iconic national park area is also less than desirable. We do not support the proposal made by the previous Government to shift the roadway closer to the Mt Cook School. Nor are we in favour of a compromise that involves stopping the traffic through the park on service days: we consider that this is half-hearted and the resulting congestion will undoubtedly impact the rest of the suburb.

## HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The heritage buildings should not be impacted by the roading works, notably the empty shops at the southern end of Kent Tce and the former Infants’ School building at the north western side of the Basin Reserve.

This is a residential area, making additional traffic noise unacceptable. The area should remain attractive for residential accommodation.

Mt Cook Mobilised appreciates the opportunity to provide early feedback to the project team, and we look forward to participating in the proposed focus groups of interested parties.