

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

September 2009

To date, members of the Chamber have given a strong mandate to support a full western link expressway. This is on the basis that all other options involve up to 10 years in the planning, consent and construction, and provide no certainty of land tenure for years to hundreds of potentially affected homeowners. Within these options there sits the likelihood of decimating the heart of our Waikanae township, bulldozer through our iconic, internationally renowned destination – Southwards Car Museum and result in heavy transport operators using some suburban streets as transport links. Above all else, they fail to provide a road that brings any significant benefit to our community.

And that is a critical fact. It is vital that we understand this move by the Minister of Transport is not about creating a road that meets the needs of our community but rather meets a national strategy on transport. Such planning may have considerable merit for the future of our country as a whole; as a community it currently exposes us to some unpalatable choices. What we as a community must do is achieve some wins for us in the implementation of this strategy.

In the forthcoming weeks, it is vital that those in decision making, work together (this means KCDC and others with NZTA) with a view to finding some compromise which meets both local and national interests. There must be some movement on the part of all parties if a workable solution is to be found. The Chamber is committed to being part of this and will be bringing workable options to the public for your consideration in the timeframe we all have available to make our submissions.

Wendy Huston
Chairperson