

Tuesday 14 May 2024

Andy Foster, Chair, Transport and Infrastructure Committee  
Grant McCallum, Deputy Chair, Transport and Infrastructure Committee  
Hon. Julie Anne Genter, Member, Transport and Infrastructure Committee  
Mariameno Kapa-Kingi, Member, Transport and Infrastructure Committee  
Cameron Luxton, Member, Transport and Infrastructure Committee  
Tom Rutherford, Member, Transport and Infrastructure Committee  
Tangi Utikere, Member, Transport and Infrastructure Committee  
Arena William, Member, Transport and Infrastructure Committee

By email

Tēnā koutou,

## **Ensuring greater accountability at Auckland Transport**

The Restaurant Association is beyond disappointed to be blindsided by the revelations in the past few days regarding Auckland Transport's changes to parking charges in the Central City Parking Zone (CCPZ). While Auckland Transport has said they "have been trying their best to communicate" these changes, we submit that their best is nowhere near good enough.

Common sense would suggest that best practice engagement by organisations that are meaningfully committed to the community they seek to serve includes direct communication with those impacted by the proposed changes (in our case, our member businesses within the CCPZ and their employees); however yesterday's media coverage of the issue was the first time many of our members were made aware of the changes.

It has been 13 years since amendments to the *Local Government Act 2002* were made to establish the Auckland Unitary Council and its Council-Controlled Organisations.

As the largest representative body for restaurants and cafés in New Zealand, and one of the multitude of stakeholders let down by this announcement, we submit that this latest decision is egregious enough to call for an inquiry into the role, powers and accountability of Auckland Transport. **I am writing to the Committee to ask you to consider initiating such an inquiry.**

In initiating an inquiry, the Committee will be able to hear evidence from a wide range of stakeholders on Auckland Transport's conduct since its establishment, seek advice from both officials and Ministers on options to ensure greater accountability, and make recommendations to Parliament.

Auckland Transport has a duty to the community it serves. Their approach to this is, in our opinion, completely unacceptable and warrants an inquiry to ensure both elected members and the general public can have confidence in their operations.

Should you require a briefing to help decide whether to launch a formal inquiry, the Restaurant Association, along with many of our local member businesses, would be happy to appear. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if I can be of any assistance or provide any further information that may assist the committee.

Ngā mihi nui,



**Marisa Bidois**

Chief Executive

Restaurant Association of New Zealand

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cc: Hon. Simeon Brown, Minister of Transport, Minister of Auckland  
Chlöe Swarbrick, MP for Auckland Central