

Living Streets Aotearoa



Submission to Greater Wellington Regional Council on the proposed Naenae Subway Improvements

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Date: 17 May 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this proposal, and our submission is as follows.

Living Streets supports all the proposed improvements to Naenae Station subway, while noting that they fall short of making the station fully accessible. Naenae is one of the few inaccessible Metlink stations, and we fully support the submission from the Disabled Persons' Assembly towards rectifying this position, consistent with Metlink's Accessibility Charter.

We note that as well as access for the station, the subway is also an important link between Naenae town centre and the Avalon area (including in particular Naenae College, and Naenae Intermediate and Kimi Ora schools), and that wayfinding to and in the subway needs to reflect this. For instance, the concept drawings show the greatly improved signage saying just "Naenae" at each end, with no explicit indication that that this means access to Naenae Station and places beyond; signage in the subway is shown pointing to Oxford Terrace and Cambridge Terrace, but this important information on its own is insufficient to show which way to go to get to, for example, Naenae town centre and Avalon. In addition, these signs are shown as being written in all capitals, while sentence case is generally considered to be more legible. We assume that there are Metlink guidelines for wayfinding issues such as these: could we have a copy, please?

With respect to the specific questions on the feedback form, we have no preference for the types of images projected; and sounds should be non-intrusive, so we do not support sounds incorporating the spoken word (except for operational announcements).

With respect to the consultation process, we note that just two means of giving feedback are mentioned: *"You can either fill in the Naenae Subway Improvements: Feedback Form or come to one of the information sessions to chat to Greater Wellington staff and provide your feedback on a paper form"*. For many people the latter will not be practical or possible, and for organisations such as ours the former is not possible since the form requires the age and area of residence of the submitter, not relevant for an organisation. For greater accessibility

it should be made clear that email submissions (like this one) are acceptable, and this should apply to all consultations and engagements.

If there is an option, we would like to be heard in support of this submission, and we would appreciate an acknowledgement of its receipt.

About Living Streets Aotearoa

Living Streets Aotearoa is New Zealand's national walking and pedestrian organisation, providing a positive voice for people on foot and working to promote walking-friendly planning and development around the country. Our vision is "More people choosing to walk more often and enjoying public places".

The objectives of Living Streets Aotearoa are:

- *to promote walking as a healthy, environmentally friendly and universal means of transport and recreation*
- *to promote the social and economic benefits of pedestrian-friendly communities*
- *to work for improved access and conditions for walkers, pedestrians and runners, including walking surfaces, traffic flows, speed and safety*
- *to advocate for greater representation of pedestrian concerns in national, regional and urban land use and transport planning.*

For more information, please see www.livingstreets.org.nz.