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Kia ora

I'll be brief: the Peninsula Connection has been transformative for the communities it serves and connects. I used to live in Macandrew Bay, and the short length of common pathway was one of the major contributory factors to its community cohesion and liveability. After moving to Challis Point in 2016, we lost this connectivity...

...Until the Peninsula Connection came. It felt like a massive transformation to be able to walk to see our friends in Mac Bay, cycle to Broad Bay to catch up with others. It has had a positive effect on every community it touches.

For cyclists commuting, it's an option where there was no safe alternative before. For leisure use and tourism, it's a massive asset to the city – though it **MUST** be finished to maximise the impact it can have on visitor attraction.

I support the wisdom of completing the works in a distinct Priority Order having read various pieces of documentation about the reasons and it **MUST** be a continuous process. We have seen what happens and how costs increase when compromises to schedules are made.

1. Ellison Rd to Ōtākou Fisheries Wharf Yr 2 2026/27
2. Tidewater Dr to Ellison Rd Yr 3 2027/28
3. Portobello to Weir Rd (landward option) Yr 4 2028/29

The foresight and grit shown by DCC in fighting for Peninsula Connection in the first place must be respected. Mana whenua have gifted us a name that we can all be proud of: Te Awa Ōtākou, a name which visitors will also love. Peninsula Connection is descriptive, but it does sound like a bus service or a motorway!

For community cohesion, safety and respect for the promises made back in 2014, please finish Te Awa Ōtākou. It gives the council a reason to be proud of an achievement in challenging times, and leaves a legacy for future generations.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Ponting', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Ponting and whānau