

24 April 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the annual plan.

I am writing to thank council staff for the work on Te Awa Ōtākou/Peninsula Connection project and to the **urge the Council to complete the Te Awa Ōtākou/Peninsula Connection in Yrs 2,3,4 in the following order of priority:**

- 1. Ellison Rd to Ōtākou Fisheries Wharf Yr 2 2026/27** which is the most dangerous section of road and the only access for community and marae
- 2. Tidewater Dr to Ellison Rd Yr 3 2027/28**
- 3. Portobello to Weir Rd (landward option) Yr 4 2028/29** which is more complex. I prefer the landward option - this will mean safer access for school students, less complex construction and more cost effective than seaward option.

I have been a Company Bay resident since 1999, when we built our home on Portobello Rd. The road widening has transformed my community, and it is essential that all communities on the Peninsula benefit from this transformation.

When my children were very small, before the road was widened, the only local options for walking with the pushchair from our house were along Portobello Rd. This was a very frightening option! When cars came too close to the *very* narrow walkway, I would turn my back to the traffic, hang the front wheels of the pushchair over the ledge, breath in, and hope for the best. The completion of the widening from Company Bay to Macandrew Bay opened up a whole new world for our community. The day the school children walked with the Mayor from Company Bay to the school to open the walkway was a wonderful celebration. The walkway allowed my sons to walk/scooter and bike safely to school. I was more confident biking to work, and the local community had opportunities to meet each other and talk. The walkway is now the heart and soul of Company Bay. It is also much safer for everyone. My husband and I use the walkway almost every evening (weather permitting!) and we meet many other people and families who regularly do the same. During lockdown there were so many people using the walkway that we would joke that it was like our local Champs-Élysée!

In relation to those sections of the walkway still to be completed, I wish to share a little bit of history to give Council some perspective on this. I am a professor of politics at the University of Otago and last year my masters students co-designed a research project with Ōtākou runaka to analyse the speeches that Southern Māori member of parliament H.K. Taiaroa made in Parliament in the 1870s and 1880s. This was the time when the road out to the Heads was under construction. For years H.K. Taiaroa gave impassioned pleas for the section of the road outside the marae to be completed – it was the final section of the road to be finished and progress on this section had stalled. Ultimately, it was his arguments that this would benefit Pākehā communities beyond the marae that won favour with the House and saw the road completed. I am sure the Council does not want to repeat the injustices of the 1870s and 1880s in failing to provide equitable services to all Peninsula communities. I have included some excerpts of this speeches below.

OTAGO HEADS ROAD.

Mr. **TAIAROA**, in moving the motion standing in his name, said that, in compliance with a motion of his, last year the Government consented to place a sum of £250 on the estimates for this purpose, but he had since been to the Otago Heads, and found that no work had been done with this £250. Possibly it had been spent in paying for work previously done. He had also seen that the work formerly done had since come to grief, and the **road** was now in very bad order. The part he would like to see finished was that leading to the lighthouse, by which provisions and stores were taken there. The **road** stopped short at a fence, and the owners of the land said they would not allow the provisions and stores for the lighthouse to be taken through their land. There was only a narrow path, about two feet wide, and extending for about half a mile, which runs through the land. He did not ask for this work to be done in order to benefit the Natives, because they were opposed to it in a great measure, but he asked for it in the interest of the Europeans living there, and in order that the **road** might be completed as had been agreed upon. Formerly provisions were taken to the pilot-station by the Harbour Board boats, and other boats, but now fewer boats were running, and everything had to be taken by this **road**. He hoped the House would agree to this resolution, as it was a colonial matter, and as it would be carrying out the promises formerly made. He might tell the House that the **road** had not been completed up to the point originally mentioned as that to which it was to be made, and what had been constructed was in a very bad state. He hoped also that the **road** would be made at once, because, if the Natives persisted in blocking it, it might be said that they were trampling on the law. The Natives there blamed him for endeavouring to get the **road** made, for they said it would only be of benefit to the Europeans, and not to them. This was the **road** by which the big guns were to have been taken to the place at the heads when it was supposed that there was danger of the Russians attacking the colony. The position which had been surveyed for that purpose was situated there, and if the motion was not agreed to there would be no **road** to that place.

Motion made, and question proposed, "That this House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of a respectful address to be presented to His Excellency, requesting him to cause to be placed on the

I would be grateful for the opportunity to make an oral submission to the council on this.

Mauri ora!

Janine Hayward

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