

22 August 2017

Peter Reidy
Chief Executive
KiwiRail

Dear Peter,

I am writing to you to confirm the Labour party's policy in respect of the proposed de-electrification of the North Island Main Trunk Line.

As you will be aware, Labour has consistently opposed de-electrification. We believe that it is a backwards step for New Zealand to replace infrastructure that runs on largely renewable energy, with infrastructure that runs on diesel and emits significantly higher carbon emissions.

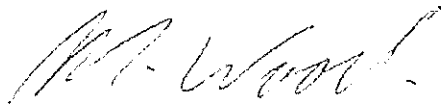
In our view this is a significant strategic issue for New Zealand. De-electrifying the network from Hamilton to Palmerston North effectively takes off the table any option to electrify the remainder of the network.

We believe that KiwiRail has been placed in a difficult position over electrification because the current government is unwilling to commit the capital investment required to develop modern, fit-for-purpose rail infrastructure.

Today Labour is releasing its transport policy which confirms that, if elected, we will require a halt on any work to de-electrify the network. We will issue a Letter of Expectations to KiwiRail which would signal that any such work should cease. Following this, we will work with KiwiRail to develop an evidence based, long term plan to guide capital investment in the rail network. We will consider options to expand electrification as a part of this plan.

In good faith we feel it is appropriate to advise you of in advance of the Labour Party's intentions ahead of the General Election.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Wood
Labour MP for Mt Roskill
Transport Spokesperson

