



9 December 2019

Dear friends of Port Marlborough and interested parties,

Interislander Ferry Replacement Project

Over recent months Port Marlborough has been working closely with KiwiRail to understand and plan for KiwiRail's future needs at Picton.

The three current Interislander ferries will soon need replacement because of their age, and KiwiRail is in the early stages of planning to replace these with two larger, rail-enabled ferries. The new ships are targeted to be in operation by 2024/25.

To accommodate the larger ships and forecast freight, vehicle and passenger demand, changes to berth and terminal infrastructure will be required on both sides of Cook Strait.

At Picton, this is likely to include new wharves and linkspans and changes to landside terminal infrastructure and operational areas. We will also need to understand the interfaces with rail and road transport routes, and what changes might be needed there.

Redevelopment in Picton also brings opportunities to better connect the ferry precinct with town, to re-think the location of cruise berths, to better showcase Picton and Marlborough, and to generally take advantage of the benefits of new investment in KiwiRail's Cook Strait Operations.

KiwiRail and Port Marlborough are working together closely on the project, alongside the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), Marlborough Roads, and Marlborough District Council.

Although this work is still at the early feasibility stage, we are keen to share what is known so far, and get feedback.

We invite you to come and meet with the project team at an initial project 'public open day' from 4 – 7 pm on Thursday 12 December at Picton Library. Please feel free to share this invitation with others.

Alternatively, information and feedback opportunities are available on the project website which will be live from 12 December – please see www.pictonferryprecinct.co.nz.

Yours sincerely,

R. A. Prendeville

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