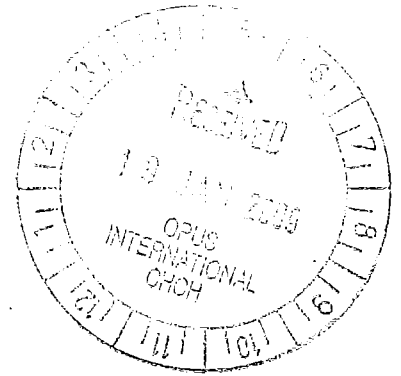


NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY  
WAKA KOTAHI

14 January 2009

Ashburton District Council  
P.O. Box 94  
Ashburton

cc



Attention: Brian Lester

Dear Brian

**Ashburton Museum and Art Gallery**

This letter serves to clarify points raised in our letter to Mr Rice of Opus on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2008 and subsequent phone discussion with you. Please take this letter as replacing our 19<sup>th</sup> December letter.

I can confirm that the letter sent by Mr Spowart on the 5<sup>th</sup> December in response to the engineering assessment undertaken by Opus remains our formal response on the transport assessment. We are generally happy with the standard of assessment and Mr Spowart has suggested some minor follow up work to clarify aspects of the assessment.

The remaining concern is the location of the museum on West Street and how connectivity issues across the State Highway will be addressed. This matter is raised ahead of viewing the full consent application and is anticipated to form part of the discussion when we meet with you next week. The principle concern is related to the location of the museum and other Council initiatives we are aware of such as the Town Centre Strategy and Parking Strategy. In our view there are wider questions of balancing different transport needs (i.e. State Highway function versus connectivity across the State Highway), and is a matter we will be mindful of in assessing the full museum consent application. While my view is that the museum appears likely to have a minor effect on the State Highway, I felt it important that we should raise the wider connectivity issues now to ensure they are addressed as part of the consent application to avoid NZTA raising them through the formal submission process.

Therefore in summary, we agree with the analysis of effects in the transport assessment, subject to the points of clarification set out in Mr Spowart's letter. In relation to the transport connectivity matter, we look forward to further dialogue with the Council as it develops its Town Centre concept.

Yours sincerely

Steve Higgs  
Regional Planning Manager

cc - Bill Rice - Opus International Consultants  
- Mark Yaxley - NZTA

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