



THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

24 April 2024

Hon Mark Mitchell
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

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Tēnā koe Minister Mitchell

Subject: Funding support for CCTV cameras

Thank you for making yourself available last month to meet with me over Zoom. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss the safety concerns we are facing here in Rotorua and options for the way forward.

As I highlighted during this meeting, our Council has gone above and beyond to improve community safety in Rotorua. To do this, we have increased investment in community safety initiatives and formed an effective and efficient partnership with local Police.

A critical aspect of this working relationship is council's CCTV network which provides 24/7 surveillance of our city. On many occasions our team has been able to provide CCTV footage to local Police to assist with investigations and prosecutions, ensuring those who choose to commit crimes are held accountable.

Currently our CCTV network includes 19 New Zealand Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) cameras. We have recently learnt that following a Privacy Impact Assessment, New Zealand Transport Agency will be resuming full operation of these cameras which means our Community Safety Team will no longer be able access them or freely obtain footage from them to assist Police.

We appreciate the New Zealand Transport Agency has important obligations regarding privacy in relation to these cameras but would like to highlight that removing council's ability to access and monitor these cameras is removing a valuable tool from local crime prevention and community safety initiatives.

The decision to remove cameras in these key areas will leave a large gap in our CCTV network. To maintain community safety we will have to purchase replacement cameras and request that the New Zealand Transport Agency allows us to fix these new cameras to their existing camera poles throughout the district.

This is currently estimated at around \$675,000 to replace and install 19 new cameras. Given this would be yet another cost to our ratepayers to address community safety, we are requesting funding support from you to cover the cost of these replacement cameras.

Recognising the shared priority of safety for both Council and Government, your support will minimise significant costs to Council and ratepayers while also contributing to a safer community and benefitting our local Rotorua Police.

I appreciate you considering this solution and hope to hear from you soon.

Ngā mihi

Tania Tapsell
Her Worship the Mayor of Rotorua