

Hon James Meager

Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport



12 MAY 2026

JMITC-47

Rob van Voorthuysen
Expert panel chair

By email: Substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

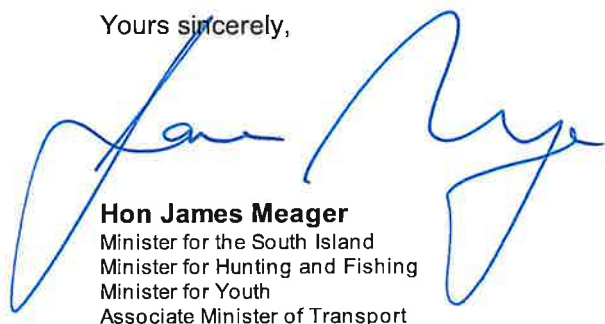
Dear Rob,

Thank you for your invitation to comment on this substantive application for State Highway 1 North Canterbury – Woodend Bypass Project (Belfast to Pegasus) [FTAA-2512-1157] under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

I support the Woodend Bypass Project receiving the approvals it requires subject to any conditions the panel considers appropriate. The delivery of this regionally and nationally significant infrastructure will provide benefits in travel time reduction and safety improvements.

I have not considered the operational impacts of this project on local transport networks. However, NZTA is the applicant and is best placed to provide insights into these matters.

Yours sincerely,



Hon James Meager
Minister for the South Island
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This is an important part of the Government's nationwide investment into our roading network. His inclusion as a fast-track project will benefit Canterbury residents and businesses, and will assist our managed roll out of key infrastructure projects across the country.