



*B u s i n e s s V i t a l i t y*

**Media Release  
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### **Government must not Neglect Wellington in its infrastructure Planning**

The Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce has welcomed the government's just-released National Infrastructure Plan and emphasised the importance of the Wellington region in future decisions.

"The plan shows the government is serious about plugging New Zealand's infrastructure deficit," said Chamber CEO Charles Finny.

"It recognises the importance of investing in infrastructure to raise New Zealand's productivity levels and thus its economic growth.

"We are pleased that Wellington gets reasonable attention in the document - the Levin to Airport Road of National Significance, for example will make a huge difference to the region's economy.

However, we think there needs to be more focus on the central part of New Zealand. For example, we would like to see more thinking on the establishment of a port at Clifford Bay, to improve links between the North and South Islands.

"Wellington is one of the fastest growing cities in the country.

"As the capital city, its infrastructure needs are unique and secure links to the rest of the country are essential.

"Wellington's location in the centre of the country, on State Highway One and on Cook Strait gives it a crucial strategic location on infrastructure networks.

"While our problems are less acute than Auckland's, Wellington's strategic location means its infrastructure deficit has a disproportionate effect on national productivity.

"We urge more focus on Wellington's infrastructure needs," Mr Finny concluded.

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