

Interviewee: Jessica Herewini

Title: Corporate Services Senior Coordinator

Interview Date: 01/26/24.

Interview Time: 10:27 am – 11:15 am

Before the interview, Jessica prefaced that she is not a cyclist or regular user of the Hutt River Trail. Her co-worker Andrew is likely a more knowledgeable person to speak with, given that he is a cyclist, but he was on leave and recommended Jessica in his place.

Can you explain your role at the GWRC?

- Jessica has been working at GWRC for 6 months in a Mayor Reporting position and is currently split across two teams:
 1. Project management
 - Teams report to her on their project updates.
 - Mostly high value projects \$500,000 +.
 - Often deals with reporting business improvements.
 2. Risk and assurance
 - Handles 22 uncertainties (high risk areas)
 - Insurance renewals.
 - Given that the land is reclaimed that makes for complications and high insurance rates.
 - o Essentially she makes sure people are self-insured in case of uncertainties.
 - GWRC owns a lot of property, and this is part of it.

Have you ever done work or projects along the Hutt River Corridor?

- Can you explain this work in more detail?
 - Went on a site visit for her position that involved going to the River Corridor where she was able to meet the rangers there.
 - They were able to see the water testing facility.

- Additionally, she viewed the bridge near Silverstream where there is construction and a pipe being added.
- They also viewed the Rumataka Bridge and parts of the rail trail.
- She's familiar with the River Link project but hasn't done much work with it.
 - o Believes it's going well so far.
 - o Could be a change in the project given the change in government and the water quality.

Added question: Is there a reason you don't use the River Corridor?

- Doesn't really know if there's a reason.
- She typically uses the river path closer to her home near Wainuiomata.
 - o This is a sealed road right next to the river.
 - o It is multiuse i.e. cyclists, families, swimming, cars, etc.
 - o Believes the Hutt River Trail is more developed/better and has more river access.
 - o This path doesn't have commuters on it, it's more a recreational loop.

Can you explain how flooding affects the Hutt River Trail specifically?

- What risks does flood along the Hutt River Corridor pose to the community?
- She has heard from 1 report from a flood protection project/flood recovery project.

Do you believe there is conflict between the users of the Hutt River Corridor?

Follow up if yes: What do you believe could be a solution for the conflicts between users without excluding any user?

- Has only ever heard good things about the trail.

What are your thoughts on adapting the corridor for increased commuter cyclists use?

- Once the Harbor area near Petone is renovated, they could make a pathway that goes all the way down from Upper Hutt.
- She is unsure if GWRC would be able to do this, it's mostly dependent on the ground/environment.

Do you believe providing more transport opportunities for commuter cyclists is important?

- Cyclists can be annoying when they use the motorway.
 - o They often use the motorway instead because the current track can pop the bike's tires.
- Some cyclists are not the friendliest, even to each other, especially in terms of passing one another on the road.
- On the motorway it can be challenging as there could be a cyclist on one side and a motorbike on the other which puts the car in a difficult position.

Quote: "The cyclists are so annoying; they get on the motorway even though there is a bikeway."

She also mentioned: "It is hard for a driver to drive with them on the road".