

Interviewee: Tui Lewis

Title: Deputy Mayor of Hutt City Council

Interview Date: 01/29/24.

Interview Time: 12:15 - 12:41 PM

Can you please tell us what your role is as Deputy Mayor of Hutt City?

- First role: ward counselor
- She's coming up on five years of holding this position
- Also, must help the mayor when he's not around and fill in for any of those responsibilities

In this role, do you have any experience working with the Hutt River Corridor? If so can you describe your work?

- Sitting in on meetings; gets updates from the different steering groups on the River Link Corridor

From your perspective, what is the main purpose of the River Corridor?

- Purpose: flood protection
- The valley floor is the biggest flood plain in New Zealand

Do you believe recreational use of the River Corridor is important, why or why not?

- "Recreational use is important and growing"

In your role, how do you balance flood protection and increased desire for recreational use?

- Hard to balance
- Biggest thing to balance is the money
- If you add to much infrastructure, then it could all get washed away anyway
- Would love to see more recreational opportunities along the corridor
 - i.e. dog parks

Does your role have any relation to the River Link Project?

- GW mostly controls the land and river quality
- Stop banks aren't as clean and wide enough for all users which shows how it's difficult to manage flood and recreational purposes
 - Wider walkway is important

Can you elaborate on how much of an impact you believe River Link will have on the users of the Corridor?

- “Huge positive outcome if we can get this going”
 - Increases connectivity
 - Out of the harbor and into Wellington

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

- More commuters during working hours
 - Includes having respect from all groups

Do you believe all the trails along the corridor could be expanded? If so, how much?

- Do you believe the governmental agencies involved could fund this project and what would be a realistic timeline for completing it?
- This is more related to the roading and transport team (NZTA)
- Considering the widening of the paths hasn't started yet, she is unsure of the timeline
- Can become a hassle with the consent process of mixing in different agencies
- Ideal to have separate path, but geographically, this might not be realistic

What is your ideal vision for the Hutt River Corridor and what would it take to accomplish this?

- Having a separate path for recreational users and commuter cyclists
- Has seen the space been more used amongst families, specifically migrant families

Are you a user of the Hutt River Corridor?

Follow up if yes: What activities do you use the corridor for?

If no: Is there a reason you do not use the corridor? Then go to commuter question.

- Walks and goes to the market in Lower Hutt

- Used to do bike riding but no longer does due to injury

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 viewed conflicts between users
 - People on bikes need to use bells
 - Give the right warning when passing
- Cyclists aren't necessarily happy with the stuff put in
- It's a bonus that people can now use the corridor recreationally in the first place
- Having consistent signage throughout the corridor for users
 - Letting them know where the nearest bathrooms are

Governmental process of starting a project like this:

- Owner of the land:
 - Government can come in to see if they want to implement a project
 - GW would need to liaise with all the other governmental groups involved
 - If the government wants it, they still might not be sure who pays for it
 - GW would probably go for it if government provided the funds
- Difficult with pressure from all around on the corridor