

**KiwiRail Freight hub – Submission:**

- **Worry and Disruption:** First, I would like to acknowledge that the possibility of a Freight hub has caused much worry and disruption to the Bunnythorpe community over the last 18 months. Some people in our community will lose their houses, and that is of course very hard to see.
- **Light and Noise:** Other residents may be impacted by light and noise, and so ensuring that the proposed mitigations are put in place and maximised is crucial. For example, building the wall early on and native plantings. We also note that the council wondered whether it would be useful to increase the Notice of Requirement in some places where properties are most impacted. If there was a possibility of conversations being held between KiwiRail and these properties, to allow residents to choose whether to sell or stay, that would seem ideal.
- However, although some residents will be adversely affected and we are sympathetic about this, overall we feel that the Freight hub is likely to bring many benefits to the Bunnythorpe Region.
- **Environment:** Firstly – trains are better for the environment in terms of freight movement. This is a critical issue as Climate Change is a huge threat to our planet and there is a need to make urgent changes to reduce these risks.
- **Amenity value:** We also feel that the improvement in amenity value improved due to multiple native plantings, the stormwater ponds and associated recreational tracks will be a huge benefit to both the local community and further afield. Also very happy to see all the consideration given to streams and aquatic life – although some disagreement currently between ecologists, it seems that these issues should be resolvable.
- **Trunkline moved west:** The Freight hub also has significant benefits to Bunnythorpe East residents, for example those along Sangsters Line. This is especially due to the main trunkline being moved 10 metres to the West and with the building of a wall around the freight hub. This will reduce noise levels for residents living in houses on this side. Similarly, shifting the main Railway road will also be beneficial to these residents.
- **Flyover:** Another big benefit of the current location is that it will allow the construction of a flyover at the Northern end – which will take thousands of vehicles including trucks out of the centre of Bunnythorpe village. We have seen similar built on the Kapiti Coast with the development of the Kapiti Expressway over recent years, and having the heavy traffic taken away from the residential areas below has been great for the local communities. We believe this will also be the case for Bunnythorpe.
- **Economic benefits:** Also, the Freight hub is likely to bring economic benefits to Bunnythorpe. And this will likely bring further benefits to the village such as hopefully a couple of cafes and a takeaways outlet. We have often heard people say

how nice it would be if Bunnythorpe had a takeaways outlet again, and believe that people would be even happier if there was a café or two too!

However, I wanted to finish by saying that although we believe that the Freight Hub will bring many benefits to the Bunnythorpe region, for some years yet, it will cause major disruptions. So we would like to suggest that a contribution from KiwiRail towards something positive for the Bunnythorpe community might go a long way. For example, perhaps by developing a community facility like a playground with a train theme, including miniature and model trains, + information boards about the project could be something that could be a positive focus for the community over the next few years. This in combination with other positive benefits like lots of native plantings and the development of bike and walking trails around the stormwater ponds is likely to grow a feeling of goodwill towards KiwiRail, which would be excellent to see.