ACROSS THE CHANNEL

Opua–Ōkiato ferry: supporting documents and next steps

Response to Grant McCallum · 5 October 2026

Hi Grant,

Thank you for your response and for taking the time to meet with Cath and me.

Attached are the original 2003 judgment and the Commerce Commission material we discussed. Thank you for taking the concerns about ferry fares forward with the Commission.

Could you please let us know when you expect to speak with the Commission and send your letter? We would appreciate a copy of that correspondence and an initial progress update within the next two weeks, even if a response is still pending.

We also want to reiterate that our wider goal extends beyond a Commerce Commission investigation. We are seeking recognition of the Opua–Ōkiato ferry as an essential transport link and an extension of the roadway, with clear public responsibility for its affordability and reliability.

The ferry supports everyday access to work, education and healthcare, as well as suppliers and emergency services. Its role includes being called out at night for urgent hospital transport. These needs remain regardless of what the Commission concludes about fares or competition.

Alongside your approach to the Commission, could you please outline how you will help progress this wider goal with the relevant agencies, including FNDC, Northland Regional Council and NZTA, and clarify who should take the lead?

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to a clear path forward.

Kind regards,
Karin
Across the Channel