

Wayne Brown  
c/o Office of the Mayor  
Private Bag 92300  
Victoria Street West  
Auckland 1142

1 February 2024

Tēnā koe, Mayor of Auckland, Wayne Brown,

We represent the largest group of medical and health professionals in Aotearoa NZ who advocate for climate and health. We have been disheartened at recent comments about raised crossings and wanted to bring the following to your attention.

We understand that you are concerned about cost. Road crashes already cost NZ billions of dollars every year<sup>1</sup>. Investing in Auckland by enabling safe active movement would return \$11 for every \$1 spent<sup>2</sup>.

Raised crossings are a highly cost-effective and minimally disruptive strategy that contributes to a safe and healthier Auckland. Raised crossings:

- have significantly reduced death and injuries in Auckland <sup>3</sup>.
- hugely benefit older people, children, and disabled people
- help keep roads safer, meaning people can stay and healthy walking, running, and wheeling, while reducing emissions

If our roads were safer, 260 of the 377 people who were killed on roads last year would still be alive<sup>4</sup>.

Building more crossings was also one of the most asked-for improvements to Auckland's roads in a recent report<sup>5</sup>. Keeping and building raised crossings supports other key strategies, like Auckland Transport's Vision Zero strategy, Auckland Council's Climate Action Strategy, and the national Road Safety Strategy.

**There is no question that raised crossings are efficient and save lives.**

We implore you, Mayor Brown, to protect existing plans for raised crossings, lest we have to treat more injured pedestrians in hospitals.

Nā māua noa, nā

Dr Dermot Coffey & Summer Wright

Co-convenors of OraTaiao: NZ Climate & Health Council

- 1 Regulatory Impact Statement: Safer Journeys – New Zealand's Road Safety Strategy 2010 to [2020](#)
- 2 A Cost Benefit Analysis of an Active Travel Intervention with Health and Carbon Emission Reduction [Benefits](#)
- 3 Auckland Transport's Mass Action Pedestrian Improvement [Programme](#).
- 4 Road to Zero [Strategy](#).
- 5 Equity in Auckland's Transport [System](#)