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To Wellington City Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on the Ngaio Connection Project

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

Contact:

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# **Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly**

**We work on systemic change for the equity of disabled people**

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a not-for-profit pan-impairment Disabled People’s Organisation run by and for disabled people.

Since our formation in 1983, DPA has brought disabled people together and shaped our collective input in a way that drives system level change.

**We recognise:**

* Māori as Tangata Whenua and [Te Tiriti o Waitangi](https://www.archives.govt.nz/discover-our-stories/the-treaty-of-waitangi) as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand;
* disabled people as experts on their own lives;
* the [Social Model of Disability](https://www.odi.govt.nz/guidance-and-resources/guidance-for-policy-makes/) as the guiding principle for interpreting disability and impairment;
* the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html) as the basis for disabled people’s relationship with the State;
* the [New Zealand Disability Strategy](https://www.odi.govt.nz/nz-disability-strategy/) as Government agencies’ guide on disability issues; and
* the [Enabling Good Lives Principles](https://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/about-egl/egl-approach/principles/) and [Whāia Te Ao Mārama: Māori Disability Action Plan](https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/whaia-te-ao-marama-2018-2022-maori-disability-action-plan) as avenues to disabled people gaining greater choice and control over their lives and supports.

**We drive systemic change through:**

**Leadership:** reflecting the collective voice of disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally.

**Information and advice:** informing and advising on policies impacting on the lives of disabled people.

**Advocacy:** supporting disabled people to have a voice, including a collective voice, in society.

**Monitoring:** monitoring and giving feedback on existing laws, policies and practices about and relevant to disabled people.

**The submission**

DPA is providing this submission for the benefit of the Wellington City Council in its consideration of the Ngaio Connection Project.

Firstly, DPA is pleased to see the following proposals:

* Better access to bus stops.
* New raised pedestrian crossings
* Uphill bike lanes (one-way)
* Sharrow road markings going downhill
* Safer speeds around Ngaio village and Cameron Street
* Some parking removal and parking changes along the route and on side streets, with a staged approach through the business area on the lower part of Kaiwharawhara Road.

Secondly, DPA recognises the lengths that Council have gone to in order that the project is well consulted upon. We were pleased to be approached regarding this and would welcome the opportunity to participate in offering feedback on future projects. Our brief submission makes some recommendations around changes that could be made to make the Aro Connection more accessible, inclusive and safer for everyone, including disabled people.

Thirdly, DPA acknowledges the Council’s contracting of consultants ViaStrada who conducted an extensive safety and accessibility audit which has been useful in assisting us with developing our recommendation.

Our brief submission makes some recommendations around changes that could be made to make the Ngaio Connection more accessible, inclusive and safer for everyone, including disabled people.

**Wayfinding signage**

DPA welcomes the proposal to erect wayfinding signage here in order to avoid un-necessary collisions between pedestrians, cyclists and motorists at the Kaiwharawhara Road and Cameron Street intersection and also at the intersections of Cameron and Pickering Street. However, we wish to stress that our preference is that cyclists, motorists and pedestrians would all be best served by having separated cycling and pedestrian lanes in order to enable everyone, especially pedestrians, to be able to mobilise safely.

However, DPA recommends that any wayfinding signage be developed in a way where print, height and colour contrast are fully considered, especially for blind and low vision users. We would like to encourage the development of signage in accessible formats as well (i.e., in New Zealand Sign Language, Easy Read, Te Reo and ethnic languages) which can be done via the use of electronic apps where people can access this information via a QR code. This would help make the signage clearer, accessible and more visible for everyone.

**DPA’s recommendations**

The Disabled Person’s Assembly recommends:

**Recommendation 1:** That any wayfinding signage be developed in a way where print, height and colour contrast are fully considered, especially for blind and low vision users. We would like to encourage the development of signage in accessible formats as well (i.e., in New Zealand Sign Language, Easy Read, Te Reo and ethnic languages) which can be done via the use of electronic apps where people can access this information via a QR code. This would help make the signage clearer, accessible and more visible for everyone.