

19 January 2011

Mr Robert Walker  
PO Box 9010  
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr Walker

Thank you for your letter of 8 December suggesting potential links between New Zealand's wine trade and the possibility of China delivering improvements to our rail system.

It may interest you to know that a similar concept was behind the purchase of Wellington's Ganz-Mavag passenger trains. They were ordered in 1979 from a Hungarian company as part of an agreement whereby Hungary bought New Zealand goods to the value of the trains. The agreement was negotiated by the Prime Minister's Office and the purchase was carried out by New Zealand Railways – still a government department at the time.

We are currently working on a feasibility study of possible improvements to Wellington's public transport with Greater Wellington Regional Council and the New Zealand Transport Agency. Of course there are many steps in this process before we reach the stage of procurement, funding and construction arrangements – however we do hope to see some positive feedback as soon as possible.

As was the case in 1979, the type of agreement you propose could only be progressed by the relevant Ministers, as they are responsible for the framework for both international trade and transport expenditure. I see you have also written Hon Maurice Williamson – I would be interested to hear if you receive a positive response.

Thank you for taking the time to contact me, and please accept my best wishes for 2011.

Yours sincerely



**Celia Wade-Brown**  
**MAYOR**