

Media advisory

Green MP Julie Anne Genter and a 14m-long moving billboard rally to save our electric locomotives

What: Green MP Julie Anne Genter is leading a rally to draw attention to KiwiRail's proposed downgrade from electric to diesel locomotives . a move that will risk jobs and increase pollution

When: Wednesday 22 April 2015 at 8:00am

Where: KiwiRail Auckland Office, Cnr Parnell Rise and Stanley Street

Who: Julie Anne Genter, Vice President of the Rail and Maritime Union Howard Phillips, representatives from Generation Zero and a 14m-long moving billboard of a an electric train

Green Party transport spokesperson Julie Anne Genter will lead a rally outside KiwiRail Auckland HQ as part of her campaign to stop KiwiRail from ditching electric locomotives in favour of diesel ones.

Volunteers will create a 14m-long moving billboard of an electric freight train outside the KiwiRail offices, and KiwiRail Corporate Responsibility Manager Karl Check has agreed to meet Julie Anne.

%New Zealand taxpayers deserve clean transport choices that are fit for the 21st century . ditching our electric locomotives is a short-sighted decision,+said Ms Genter.

%The National Government is starving our rail infrastructure of capital investment when we desperately need to develop a smart, low-carbon transport system.

%National's backwards policy is forcing KiwiRail to make poor short-term decisions to save a few bucks, and it will cost us a fortune in the long run.

%Investing in electric locomotives is a common-sense way to cut our carbon pollution and it would create jobs in New Zealand along the way.+

General Secretary of the Rail and Maritime Transport Union Wayne Butson has also voiced his support for keeping electric locomotives.

%Replacing KiwiRail's electric fleet with a fossil fuel fleet will take the country backwards,+said Mr. Butson.

%KiwiRail should not let cost considerations override its responsibility to consult its workers and protect the environment. Investing in a new electric fleet means greater job security for the workers who maintain the current electric fleet.+

For more information:

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