



BYATA Positioning Statement: Inter-island Resilient Connection (IREX)

BYATA understands the cost pressures the current government is facing and as the cost of business continues to escalate, prudent financial management is key to driving New Zealand forward.

BYATA hope that in light of the current change in funding for IREX, that we will soon see anew, forward looking strategy and plan in regards to travel between North and South Islands.

Operators of The Cook Strait ferries are key to the connectivity of our country and for our visitor economy to flourish. Regional dispersal and off peak travel are two key strengths associated with the youth / backpacker market. TNZ estimates 23% of this market visit 7plus regions and 50% 4plus.

If we lose the ability for affordable transport between the islands then these numbers will drop and regions located from Rotorua down to Christchurch will be adversely affected by a decline in visitor numbers. We have complete confidence that with the skill set of our current cabinet will see a positive plan for this vital piece of infrastructure.