

16 October 2023

Steph Lockwood
Events – Practice Manager
Auckland Transport Operations Centre
Steph.lockwood@at.govt.nz

CC: Dean Kimpton, Chief Executive, Auckland Transport
dean.kimpton@at.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Steph,

I would like to thank you and acknowledge the mahi and support of Auckland Transport in delivering the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 (FIFA WWC) in Aotearoa New Zealand. The FIFA WWC was the largest women's sporting event in history. Almost two million people attended matches across both host counties, and well over one billion people watched on from around the world. Here in Aotearoa New Zealand, multiple records were broken as tens of thousands of people attended match after match, and more than two million Kiwis watched from home. As our biggest city with the largest portion of matches, Tāmaki Makaurau played an integral role in this success.

This event was a game changer for women's sport in Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world. It helped to further raise the profile of women and girls in sport and wider society and cemented our global reputation as an exceptional major event host.

Considering the worldwide recognition of the tournament, and the support of the nation, I am sure we are yet to see the full benefits of this event. I am eager to see what is in store for women and girls in both sport and wider-society, and the next generation of inspired Football Ferns and All Whites. This success could not have been achieved without dedication by agencies across Crown and Councils from securing the bid in 2020 through to delivery this year.

I would like to thank both you and the wider Auckland Transport team, who worked tirelessly to support the event in Tāmaki Makaurau. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the event-time efforts that went into supporting FIFA in real-time, including having senior personnel co-located in FIFA's MOC. The transportation integration, and agency collaboration contributed to the overall success of the tournament.

Ngā mihi nui,



Heather Kirkham
Chair of the FIFA WWC Senior Officials Group
General Manager, Tourism, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment