



**Cr Quentin Duthie**

**Regional Councillor  
update**

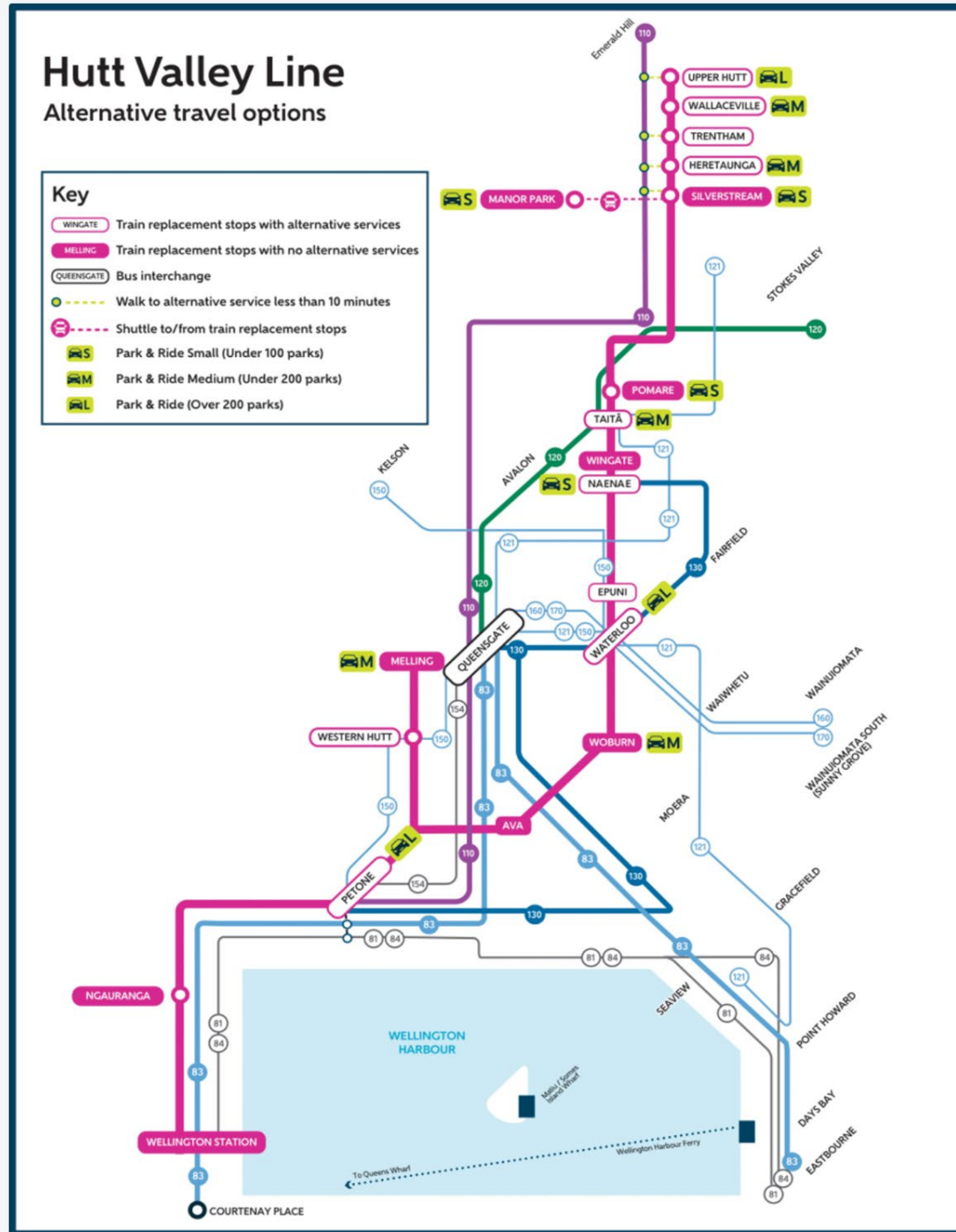
***Eastbourne CB Aug***

***2025***



# Metlink Public Transport

- Back in action: bike racks; Ika Rere
- Bus: 5M Hutt boardings YE June, 99.8%
- Train: 4.5M, 6% down, rail upgrades
- Ferry: issues, but great punctuality
- Mahina stop reinstated



- East Harbour: culling, bike tracks, Gollans, Baring Head

## Restored historic cottage about to open

By Frank Neill

A newly restored lighthouse keeper's cottage at Baring Head/ Ōrua-pouanui will soon be open for people to stay.

There are two lighthouse keeper's cottages on the Wainuiomata coastline and the first one was officially opened on 14 December 2023.

The second one will be open for bookings on Monday 18 August and following that the two cottages will be open for people to stay.

For larger groups both cottages, with a combined 12 beds, can be booked. Between the two cottages is the former generator building, which has been restored as a comprehensive storytelling hub

Regional councillor Quentin Duthie recently stayed at the newly refurbished lighthouse keeper's cottage to check that it is all ready for public booking.

"It's a gem," Cr Duthie says.

It is "comfortable, warm and nostalgic late-1960s decor.

"It's hard not to have an enjoyable stay.

"The highlight is the wild location – windy, dry, either hot or cold."

It is remote and quiet, yet only a 30 minute drive from the Wainuiomata shops.

"I arrived in calm sunny conditions, perfect for a bike ride and star-gaze," Cr Duthie says.

"By morning a strong southerly brought wailing winds, crashing waves, dramatic views.

"It's a tribute to the power of partnership and mahi tahi, involving Greater Wellington, mana whenua, Friends of Baring Head and the estate of the late John Nankervis."

Greater Wellington Regional Council was able to buy the land where the lighthouse keepers' cottages stand thanks to a million dollar donation from the estate of John Nankervis.

John, who died in 2022 after a stroke, left his estate to a series of conservation projects.

This included the donation that allowed Greater Wellington Regional Council to buy the Gollins Valley Station. The cottages are part of a complex that includes Aotearoa New Zealand's first fully-electric lighthouse, built in 1935.

The complex was added to the New Zealand Heritage list in 2023 as having "outstanding historical significance". The late Colin Ryder, who passed away in 2021, was a driving force in arguing to protect the cottages and secured \$400,000 in funding for the restoration.

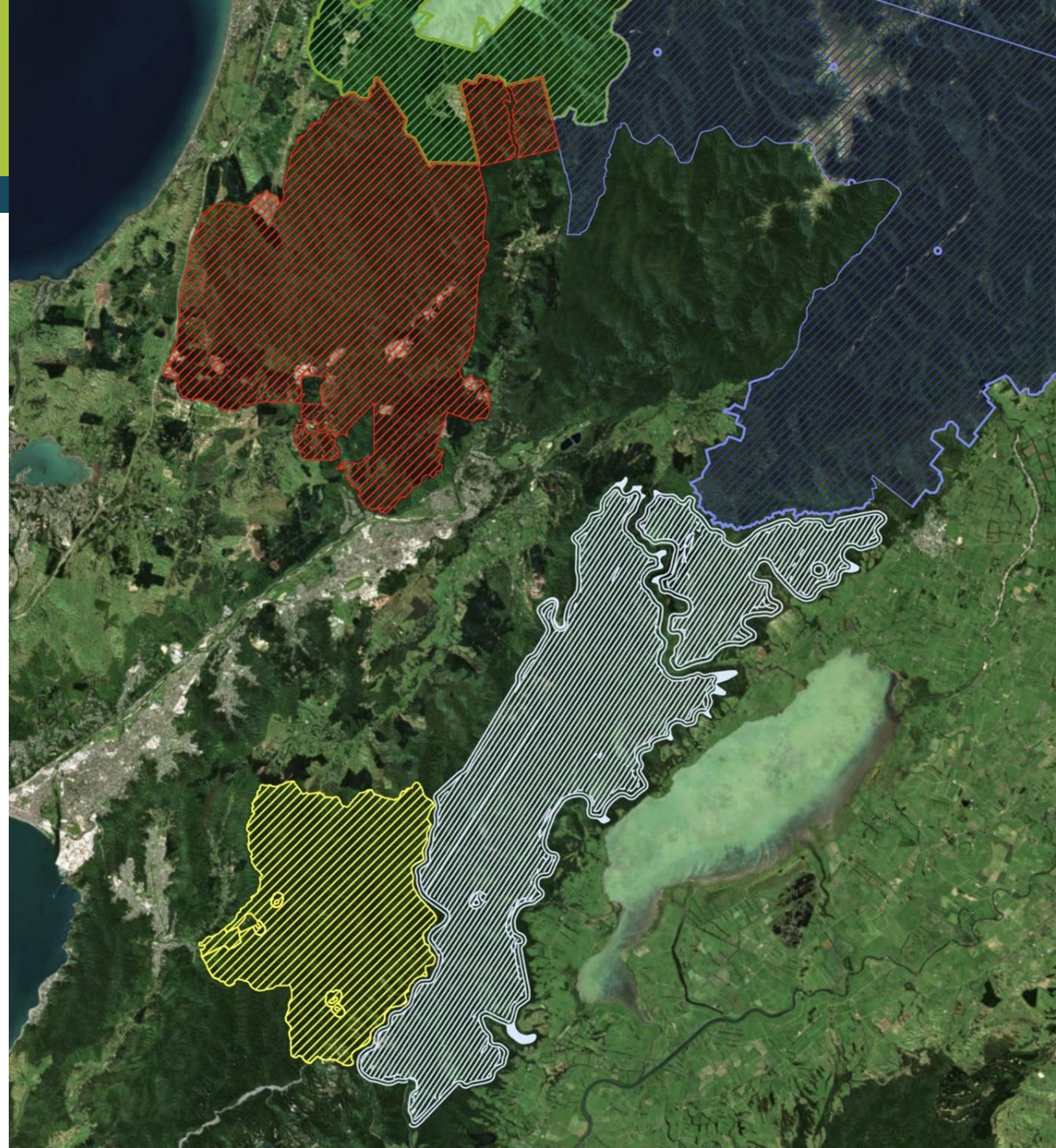
He led the campaign to have the Baring Head land bought and protected in 2010. The Friends of Baring Head continue to champion the protection of the park and lighthouse complex, and provided funding and volunteer work to make the restoration possible. More information and a link to the booking site is available at <https://www.gw.govt.nz/parks/east-harbour-regional-park/>. Bookings can be made on AirB&B.



Hutt-based Regional Councillor Quentin Duthie at the newly restored lighthouse keeper's cottage at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui. Photo: Supplied.



The lounge in the lighthouse keeper's cottage that will open for bookings on 18 August. Photo: Supplied.





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