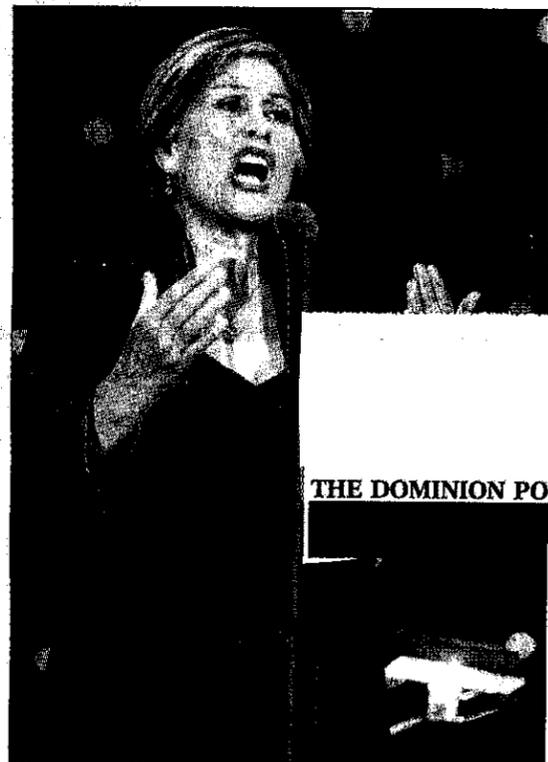




# Must back tram-trains for the capital



## Dame Kiri was right about Boyle et al

So columnist Linley Boniface is now an authority on opera divas (Opinion, May 24).

I can't say whether Dame Kiri Te Kanawa had an ego in her younger days but she's experienced enough now through an extraordinary career to know the scene. Her excursions into cross-over music have been mixed, as for other famous opera singers.

Opera singers over the past 100 years have all recorded material outside of opera, though this would be the pop music

the way she  
Hayley

Kiri sang outside  
operatically  
ght have had  
ice teacher.

their vocal qualities remain minimal. Without a microphone, they'd not be heard past the first 10 rows.

That Dame Kiri has had a career of more than 30 years at the top says much. These other "whiz-bang" names last hardly 30 months or until promoters find a financially lucrative replacement.

LESLIE J AUSTIN  
Ebdentown [abridged]

THE DOMINION POST FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2010

possibility of one is "extremely low", and that consequences "could" be serious, it has seen fit to hugely inconvenience the travelling public for five weeks and cost the long-suffering taxpayer an immense and totally unnecessary sum.

Who on earth are the mindless fools on the NZTA board who have managed to equate a fire in a 16km-long tunnel in Europe into a colossal cash-burn exercise in two tunnels that it's almost possible to spit through on a windy day? Certainly no-one with a shred of common sense.

CAMERON SHAW  
Masterton

## Probably South Korea's fault

In the aftermath of the sinking of the South Korean naval vessel, the Cheonan, New Zealand would be most unwise to take sides. Rather, it

should support the call for North Korea and China to be given the right to inspect the evidence, which is being used to apportion blame.

For decades, the Korean peninsula has been caught up in conflict and international intrigue. It's just as likely that the sinking is connected to South Korean pre-election politics, or United States neo-conservative moves within the military to create a reason for invasion of the DPRK, as it is that the DPRK took the risk of war by deliberately sinking the Cheonan, which presumably was equipped with the latest anti-submarine and under-water surveillance systems.

The incident underlines the urgent need to break the cycle of animosity by creating a peace treaty in place of the Armistice Agreement, which will, in turn, encourage the resumption of the six-party talks.

The Rev DON BORRIE  
Titahi Bay

## The ETS should be scrapped

Prime Minister John Key and his deputy, Bill English, self-praise their Budget for a few dollars that might go to people's wallets.

But, within months, that money will be gone as the proposed Emissions Trading Scheme escalates fuel, electricity bills and inflation.

The ETS is a farce. Alleged global warming has been caused mainly by natural forces over millions of years. Of recent times, there have been three massive volcanic eruptions, one in the Philippines, one in Chile and the current one in Iceland. These eruptions have spewed millions of tonnes of pollutants into the atmosphere.

Hypocrisy is to the fore. The destruction of rain forests does more damage to this world's atmosphere than the ETS could hope to combat

in a thousand years. New Zealand imports native timber from tropical rain forests.

We export millions of tonnes of coal to China to be used as fuel, yet try to coax that country into not using coal as a fuel because it's a pollutant.

The ETS will have no effect on global warming; even Australia has shelved its scheme.

The Government should scrap this legislation.

NORRIE DAY  
Wairoa

## Appropriation is astonishing

When New Zealand's Emissions Trading Scheme starts on July 1, households will pay a "modest \$3 a week", according to Prime Minister John Key.

This must be another of his bad jokes.

The 2010 Budget appropriation for Vote: Climate Change amounts to an astonishing \$1.085 billion of taxpayers' money - that's almost \$250 for every person in New Zealand.

This expenditure includes \$29 million for a national carbon-accounting system, \$12m for policy advice on the Kyoto protocol and ETS, and \$1.034b for emission units.

Alas, the Government's aversion to cutting this kind of wasteful spending means that GST has had to be increased to 15 per cent.

ALAN WALLER  
Alicetown

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## TO THE POINT

I am from York. Please can we get a new duchess?  
ROD SHAW, Te Horo

The Duchess of York should renounce her title and stand for the British Parliament. She possesses all the right qualities to become an MP.

RICHARD GOOCH, Khandallah

Linley Kennett is wrong (Letters, May, 24). As anyone who's flown in a Tiger Moth knows, the prime minister was in the pilot's seat. The pilot occupies the rear seat in biplane trainers because this offers the best view forward. It was right John Key sat there; he is, after all, the pilot in charge of the country. The seating was just prudent practice.

IAN MILLER, Khandallah

I see it's calculated that, with the tax cuts announced in last week's Budget, Finance Minister Bill English's take-home pay increases by more than \$1000 a week. This means he has regained and legitimised the \$1000-odd a week he was, for a time, claiming when he couldn't seem to work out where he and his family lived.

JUDITH PAVIELL, Nelson

The National-led Government is proving a theory of mine. I have always thought that Labour governments cared more about people and the conservatives more about money.

TANYA ASHKEN, Island Bay

As an avid white-water kayaker, I feel the need to enlighten the writer of this front-page weather forecast comment (May 25): "Forget outdoor activities this week. Still lots of rain to go." With a smaller catchment and lack of ice/snow pack in our mountains compared with those of some of our overseas counterparts, our outdoor activity is at its best when it's dumping with rain. Bring it on.

MARK G EAMES, Palmerston North

## WORD OF THE DAY

PARAURI - tan  
par roe ree

Source: Massey University, Te Kunenga ki Pūrehu