

# Hon Julie Anne Genter

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Minister for Women

Associate Minister of Health

Associate Minister of Transport



13 December 2017

Tēnā koutou

I am writing to you and other councils seeking your support to work with me and take action to improve road safety in New Zealand.

As you will be aware, New Zealand's road toll has risen over the last four years. The year-to-date road toll for 2017 has already surpassed the road toll for all of 2016. This is a significant concern for me and this government. I am particularly concerned about the safety of people using our roads coming into the summer holiday season.

I have been working with officials from the Ministry of Transport, the NZ Transport Agency and the Police, to ensure the government is taking action to address the rising road toll. I would also like to work in partnership with you to improve road safety outcomes across New Zealand. I welcome your views on this challenge and how we can address it.

I would like your support to take action as quickly as possible to improve road safety outcomes, in particular on the high-risk roads in your region. I encourage you to consider how you could accelerate the implementation of the new speed management approach, introduced earlier this year, to ensure there are safe and appropriate speeds on local roads.

I would also like to acknowledge the safety treatments local councils are making over summer as part of your existing work programme.

On 20 November 2017, my colleague, Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport, wrote to all local and regional councils about the government's focus for investment in the Government Policy Statement on land transport 2018 and how it might influence the development of your Regional Land Transport Plans (RLTPs). This includes delivering safety improvements.

In considering the safety priorities in your RLTPs, it will be important to identify the actions that have the greatest enduring effect on road safety in your region. For example, infrastructure investment or speed management, to treat high-risk roads in your region.

I have sought the NZ Transport Agency's support to partner with you on these matters. I have asked that it address any barriers councils face in progressing road safety outcomes that are within its control, including considering its funding arrangements. I have also directed officials from the Ministry of Transport to look across the road safety system and ensure that the appropriate funding, policy and regulatory settings are in place to implement changes to improve road safety as quickly as possible.

If we are to improve road safety it is important that it is a joint process. I would welcome feedback on your approach to improving road safety in your region: Where have you experienced success? What barriers do you face to making further progress in improving road safety? I encourage you to get in touch with the Ministry of Transport to share your local road safety experiences.

In early 2018, I plan to invite you and other councils to attend a national road safety summit, where I will be able to hear from you directly on these matters and discuss how we can work more closely together to improve road safety outcomes in New Zealand. I will be in touch next year to confirm the arrangements for the summit.

I will be making an announcement on Sunday 17 December 2017 that will outline my intentions in this area, including the planned summit and to confirm my desire to engage with all parties to improve safety. I would be grateful if you hold this letter in confidence until this date.

I would like this engagement with you to form part of an ongoing dialogue on the development of a road safety strategy for New Zealand. I have directed the Ministry of Transport to start work on a new strategy, including considering whether the "Vision Zero" framework is appropriate for New Zealand. I would appreciate your ongoing input and support for that work over the next 12 to 18 months.

The government will also be running a range of publicity campaigns over the summer to communicate safe driving messages. I would encourage you to get involved and urge your communities to drive safely over the holiday period.

Please direct any of your correspondence to Brent Johnston, Manager Mobility and Safety, Ministry of Transport, at [b.johnston@transport.govt.nz](mailto:b.johnston@transport.govt.nz).

You can find key safety statistics for your region to support public communications at <http://www.transport.govt.nz/research/roadcrashstatistics/regionalroadsafetyissues/>.

I thank you for your ongoing commitment to improving road safety and look forward to working with you in taking action on this important issue.

Please forward this letter as appropriate to the Chair of your Regional Land Transport Committee.

Yours sincerely



Hon Julie Anne Genter  
**Associate Minister of Transport**

Copy to:  
Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport  
Chris Moller, Chair, New Zealand Transport Agency  
Fergus Gammie, Chief Executive, New Zealand Transport Agency  
Peter Mersi, Chief Executive, Ministry of Transport