

## Proactive Release

This document is proactively released by Te Manatū Waka the Ministry of Transport.

Some information has been withheld on the basis that it would not, if requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), be released. Where that is the case, the relevant section of the OIA has been noted and no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Listed below are the most commonly used grounds from the OIA.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Description of ground</u>
6(a)	as release would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government
6(b)	as release would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government; or</li> <li>(ii) any international organisation</li> </ul>
6(c)	prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
9(2)(a)	to protect the privacy of natural persons
9(2)(b)(ii)	to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information
9(2)(ba)(i)	to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public
9(2)(ba)(ii)	to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest
9(2)(f)(ii)	to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect collective and individual ministerial responsibility
9(2)(f)(iv)	to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
9(2)(g)(i)	to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty
9(2)(h)	to maintain legal professional privilege
9(2)(i)	to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities
9(2)(j)	to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)



# Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport

For the week ending 1 December 2023

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY  
TE MANATŪ WAKA MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

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PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY  
TE MANATŪ WAKA MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

## 1 Actions from transport officials' meeting

Meeting with Ministry of Transport (the Ministry) and NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) – 29 November 2023	Due date
<p><b>Speed changes</b></p> <p>Officials to provide briefing and letter to NZTA by 1 December 2023.</p>	<p>Briefing and letter provided.</p>
<p><b>Auckland Light Rail</b></p> <p>Officials to target the Cabinet paper for the 11 December 2023 Cabinet meeting, with draft paper provided next week.</p>	<p>Wednesday, 6 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Let's Get Welling Moving (LGWM)</b></p> <p>Officials to prepare briefing and letter regarding withdrawal of support for LGWM.</p>	<p>Briefing and letter provided</p>
<p><b>Clean Car Discount Cabinet paper</b></p> <p>Paper to be updated to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reference to disabled individuals receiving exemption through the Clean Car Standard</li> <li>That Clean Car Discount would have required on-going changes as the charge would increase over time and discount would decrease.</li> </ul> <p>Departmental consultation to commence.</p> <p>Officials noted that information is being requested from NZTA on the wind down cost. This will be shared when it's available. Back pocket speaking points to be developed on the hard stop approach on date of Royal Assent in case this is raised by the Minister's colleagues.</p>	<p>Cabinet paper provided – updated to reflect departmental consultation.</p>
<p><b>Regional Fuel Tax</b></p> <p>Report back to Cabinet with policy decisions is required by 12 February 2024 with a Bill introduced in March 2024. <sup>s 9(2)(f)(iv)</sup></p>	<p>Cabinet paper will be provided on 4 December 2023.</p>

## 2 Updates on 100-Day Plan

### 100 Day Plan updates

#### Confirming investment priorities for GPS24

Work has begun on the new GPS 2024 s 9(2)(f)(iv)

We are working to provide you with a draft GPS on 22 December 2023, and subject to Cabinet approval in February 2024, to release a public consultation draft in March 2024.

*Responsibility: Paul O'Connell, Acting DCE, Strategy Group*

#### Cancel Auckland Light Rail

A Cabinet paper is being prepared for you to take to Cabinet on 11 December. The paper will seek decisions to cancel the project and disestablish the company, and authorise the shareholding Ministers (Finance, Housing, Transport) to action this. A subsequent briefing for later in December is being prepared to go to shareholding Ministers that will seek the necessary decisions to give effect to Cabinet's decisions.

*Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment & Monitoring Group*

#### Removing the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax

An updated draft Cabinet paper will be provided to you on 4 December 2023 s 9(2)(f)(iv)

The paper is intended to be lodged on 7 December 2023 for the 100 Day Plan Committee on 13 December 2023, and Cabinet on 18 December 2023. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

*Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment & Monitoring Group*

#### Removing the Clean Car Discount Scheme by 31 December 2023

The Cabinet paper sent on Thursday 30 November 2023 reflects your discussions with officials with the most significant change being to achieve a clear end-date through:

- charges ending for all vehicles registered after 11:59 pm on 31 December 2023
- rebate applications being accepted until 11:59 pm on 31 December 2023
- all rebate applications being processed by 31 January 2024.

NZTA has confirmed it will prioritise staffing and systems to support the 31 January 2024 processing deadline.

Following Cabinet's consideration of the paper on Monday 4 December 2023 the remaining steps to secure legislation to repeal the Clean Car Discount are in the table below.

## 100 Day Plan updates

Documents for Minister's consideration	Date to Minister
Finalised media release and background Qs and As (drafts were sent to your Office on 30 November 2023)	4 December
Draft Cabinet paper for approval to introduce the Land Transport (Clean Vehicle Discount Scheme Repeal) Amendment Bill and accompanying documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departmental disclosure statement</li> <li>• Legislative statement</li> <li>• Draft 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading speeches for House</li> <li>• Background Qs and As</li> </ul>	7 December  (14 December lodging for Cabinet meeting of 18 December)
Briefing providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• updated Ministerial Direction to NZTA to end the scheme</li> <li>• new Funding Deed with NZTA to repeal existing one.</li> </ul> <p>The legislation has to be amended before you can sign the Ministerial Direction and co-sign the Funding Deed with the Minister of Finance.</p>	13 December
Bill progresses through all stages of the House	19 – 21 December
Act obtains Royal Assent	21 December

*Responsibility: Siobhan Routledge, Acting DCE Policy Group*

### Revenue settings – applying Road User Charges (RUC) on light EVs from 1 April 2024

We provided you a briefing on 1 December 2023 with background and options to ensure a smooth transition of electric vehicles onto road user charges. We will discuss this advice with you at the officials meeting on 5 December 2023, and will subsequently provide you with further advice and Cabinet papers to give effect to your decisions.

*Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment & Monitoring Group*

### Resetting approach to speed limits

We provided you with a briefing and draft letter to NZTA on 1 December 2023 on resetting the approach to speed limits. This will be on the agenda for your meeting with officials on Monday 4 December 2023.

*Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE Regulatory Group*

## 100 Day Plan updates

### Withdraw from Let's Get Wellington Moving

On 1 December 2023 you received advice from the Ministry (regarding process for exit and the Relationship and Funding Agreement (RFA) between NZTA, Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council) and from NZTA (on status of projects within LGWM – as some are council-led). The Ministry's advice includes draft letters for you to send to NZTA and Councils advising them of the Government's intention to withdraw and seeking mutual agreement to close the programme (so that a 3-month process, under the current RFA, does not need to be initiated).

*Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment & Monitoring Group*

### Budget 2024 package: baseline savings, reprioritisation, and proposed initiatives

We understand that decisions on a mini-Budget will be considered by Cabinet on 11 December 2023. We will provide you advice on options and implications associated with Vote Transport savings options that are likely to be considered by Cabinet on the mini-Budget in the week of 8 December 2023. Following this meeting, we will provide you with advice on potential Budget 2024 initiatives and the process for developing a baseline savings proposal to submit to the Minister of Finance.

*Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment & Monitoring Group*

### Maritime New Zealand and Civil Aviation Authority funding reviews

We will provide you with a briefing next week on the proposed process and timelines for progressing the Maritime New Zealand and Civil Aviation Authority funding reviews, which need to progress in order to reduce their reliance on Crown funding.

*Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment & Monitoring Group*

### 2024 Legislation Programme – bids to include and prioritise transport legislation

We anticipate the Government will want Cabinet to decide on the Legislative Programme in February 2024. You will likely be invited to submit bids for transport Bills for the Programme, and we will provide advice to you on potential bids, which will reflect your priorities for the portfolio.

*Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE Regulatory Group*

### 3 Upcoming briefings

Briefings to Minister Brown – Other Priorities	Due date
<p><b>Advice on Project IRex</b></p> <p>We are preparing you urgent advice on next steps and options for Project IRex, including liaison with Treasury on preparation of a Cabinet paper which is due to be considered on 11 December 2023.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Siobhan Routledge, Acting DCE Policy Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 8 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Chatham Islands Vessel Replacement Project – project leadership and next steps</b></p> <p>As part of Budget 2022, Cabinet approved \$35.1 million in tagged contingency funding to support the Chatham Islands to replace the Southern Tiare, and to support its maintenance until a replacement vessel is delivered. This briefing seeks a decision from Joint Ministers (you and the Minister of Finance) regarding the future direction of the project.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 8 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Further information on Transport initiatives expected in the mini-Budget</b></p> <p>This briefing will include further information on the transport initiatives likely to be included in the mini-Budget package.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 8 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Update on the Auckland City Rail Link project</b></p> <p>This briefing to you and the Minister of Finance provides an update on the City Rail Link (CRL) project. It outlines your roles as joint sponsors of the project, provides an overview of key issues and risks, and seeks your approval to a preferred option to progress works at Henderson station which are needed to support CRL operations.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 15 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Transport Crown entity Board appointments</b></p> <p>This briefing seeks your in-principle decisions on upcoming appointments for the transport Boards. The terms of two members on the NZTA Board expire in March 2024 and we will need early direction from you on this and other Board appointments.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 22 December 2023.</p>



## 3 UPCOMING BRIEFINGS

Briefings to Minister Brown – Routine Matters	Due date
<p><b>Updating domestic maritime and marine protection rules</b></p> <p>The proposed amendments to rules will prevent transport operators renewing licences from inadvertently facing increased compliance costs.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE Regulatory Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 15 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Strengthening system performance through Crown entity monitoring</b></p> <p>This briefing provides an overview of your role as responsible Minister for transport Crown entities, including the levers you have available to influence their governance, strategic direction and performance.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 15 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Documents for Laying Before or Presenting to the House of Representatives</b></p> <p>The New Zealand Transport Agency (Tyre Product Stewardship Fee) Direction 2023 and Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Exhaust Emissions Rule 2023 were made after the dissolution of Parliament, and gazetted. Statutory process now requires them to be tabled in the House.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE Regulatory Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 15 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Air New Zealand: Kiwi Shareholder</b></p> <p>The Kiwi Share is a single \$1 special rights convertible preference share issued by Air New Zealand to the Crown that confers certain rights and responsibilities on the holder.</p> <p>A named individual, usually the Minister of Transport, is traditionally the Kiwi Shareholder. Until Air New Zealand is advised otherwise, the former Minister of Transport, Hon David Parker, is the Kiwi Shareholder.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE Regulatory Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 15 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Air New Zealand and Singapore Airlines Alliance Reauthorisation – initial advice</b></p> <p>Air New Zealand and Singapore Airlines have applied for re-authorisation of their airline alliance which was first authorised in 2014 and re-authorised in 2018.</p> <p>We will provide you with initial advice in mid December 2023 to allow you to discuss with officials before a final report is submitted to you in early 2024, as the current authorisation expires on 28 March 2024.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE Regulatory Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 15 December 2023.</p>

Briefings to Minister Doocey	Due date
None this week pending delegations.	None.

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## 4 CABINET PAPERS LED BY OTHER AGENCIES

## 4 Cabinet papers led by other agencies

Title	Lead agency	Minister and Committee	Estimated timing to Cabinet Committee
Delivering your resource management priorities: repeal of the Natural and Built Environment Act (NBA) 2023 and Spatial Planning Act (SPA) 2023	Ministry for the Environment	Minister Responsible for Resource Management Act (RMA) Reform; 100 Day Plan Committee	4 December 2023
<b>Comment</b>			
<p>This paper outlines policy decisions and seeks approval to have a repeal bill drafted by Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO). The NBA and SPA are in the coalition agreements to repeal within the first 100 days of the new Government.</p> <p>This paper seeks to retain the necessary provisions for the planning system to operate effectively until the Government's resource management system reforms are completed. <sup>s 9(2)(f)(v)</sup></p> <p><i>Responsibility: Siobhan Routledge, Acting DCE Policy Group</i></p>			<p><b>Next steps:</b></p> <p>Following consideration by Cabinet, we will update you via the Weekly Report on the progress of repealing these Acts.</p>

## 5 Transport Crown entity and state-owned entity (SOE) updates



### ***MV Rangitata***

Ships operating around the New Zealand coast must comply with international conventions (for foreign flagged vessels) and domestic laws (for New Zealand flagged vessels). They must also work with their classification society (a non-government organisation that establishes and maintains technical standards for the construction and operation of ships and offshore structures) to maintain their vessel safety. Maritime NZ inspectors inspect and audit vessels for compliance with standards and can upon identification of deficiencies make corrective orders or detain vessels. We also investigate issues.

A detention notice was issued on the vessel *MV Rangitata* by Maritime NZ in early November 2023, after the vessel experienced engine issues and was towed into CentrePort. Since then, the vessel has been berthed at Wellington's CentrePort, it has been inspected by its classification society and undergone sea trials. Maritime NZ is considering options allowing the *MV Rangitata* to depart Wellington, under detention, to a dry dock in Auckland for repairs. If agreed, the voyage will be made either under tow, or under the ship's own power with escort by a tug (*MV Christine Mary*, 22 metres long, 122 GT). Towage plans and escort plans will be reviewed to ensure this voyage can be undertaken safely, and an updated detention notice will be issued to account for these plans once finalised. Maritime NZ expects to have a further update in the next few days around the timing of departure from Wellington and expected arrival in Auckland. A Maritime NZ investigation is underway.

We have prepared separate advice for you this week that outlines national level Emergency Towing current state capability as well as future capability options for your consideration. We will be available to discuss these with you. We have also in a previous briefing outlined current issues with numbers of Maritime Inspectors.

### **Recreational craft harm prevention**

This summer an educational programme will be delivered to recreational craft users across the motu via the Safer Boating Forum (SBF). The national behaviour change campaign, Kia Mataara, will continue to run and remind recreational craft users to; always wear a life jacket, check the marine weather forecast and carry two water proof ways to call for help. We have been evaluating the Kia Mataara campaign as we go and the campaign to date has had positive impact. During summer a partnership with Harbourmasters across the country will see compliance activities taking place to check in on recreational craft users. Proactive media stories will also remind recreational craft users of what they need to do to stay safe.

## 5 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES

(Continued)

The Recreational Harm Prevention programme aims to keep people safe on the water by reducing deaths and serious injuries to people on recreational craft. Approximately 2 million people participate in recreational craft activities every year. On average, 18 people die every year on recreational craft. The victims of these accidents are overwhelmingly males over the age of 45 years. The majority of deaths occur on craft 6m and under and are due to not wearing a life jacket or to wearing an incorrectly fitted life jacket.

Maritime NZ delivers a range of educational activities via SBF members. The SBF is a network of 26 national and regional government agencies, local body groups, boating organisations and the marine industry involved in promoting recreational boating safety in Aotearoa New Zealand.

**Maritime NZ in the media**

Radio NZ became aware of issues around the *Rangitata*, a coastal shipping vessel. It then made enquiries about *Rangitata* and also about Maritime NZ's ongoing work for emergency towage capability. The reporter was informed that the *Rangitata* has been berthed at Centreport in Wellington since 4 November 2023 after experiencing engine issues, and it will remain under detention until all repairs and inspections are completed and conditions for release are met (see above). The information around the *Rangitata* supported a Radio NZ story about emergency towage capability, especially in Cook Strait. The piece featured commentary from Marlborough and Wellington Councils about the need for there to be emergency ocean-going towage capability and that they would be raising this, and the need for Maritime NZ to have more inspectors for prevention activity, with the new Government.



**Aviation Security Service**  
*Kaiwhakamaru Rererangi*

## Key updates

### Civil Aviation Authority (the Authority) Pricing Review

The Authority is undertaking a review of the rates set for its fees, levies, and charges. Due to the impact of the pandemic, the Authority has been reliant on Crown Funding to deliver core statutory functions since 2020. Current rates have not been adjusted since 2017 for safety functions and 2019 for most security functions. The previous Government directed the Authority to undertake a review to enable its return to a greater level of financial self-sufficiency and thus reduce its dependence on Crown funding.

The Authority is committed to reducing reliance on Crown funding as soon as practically possible. You will receive further briefings on this matter from the Authority and the Ministry of Transport in due course.

### Reduced and Zero Emissions Project

In March 2023, the Authority initiated the Reduced and Zero Emissions (RZEP) project to coordinate regulatory effort needed to enable the introduction of aircraft with alternative propulsion and energy systems. Such systems are an alternative to traditional aviation fuels and would lead to a reduction in aviation's carbon footprint.

This project has been structured to support any airline, innovator or aviation operator by helping them to understand the regulatory pathways available to bring this type of capability into New Zealand.

Air New Zealand is exploring the use of alternative propulsion and energy systems. They are seeking to introduce an aircraft with alternative propulsion into commercial operations (initially cargo) from 2026. This is an aggressive timeframe for the introduction of a new aircraft and our RZEP team has been working closely with Air New Zealand and the relevant parts of the Authority ensure both parties are 'regulatory ready' — the intention being to provide Air NZ with a clear pathway for the necessary approvals (e.g., providing the documentation needed, clarity as to which civil aviation rules will apply, clarity as to what regulatory decisions from other aviation regulators can be relied upon, etc) and for the Authority inspectorate to be well prepared to make good regulatory decisions quickly.

As part of this process, we will be supporting Air New Zealand making an announcement about the aircraft it intends to use on 6 December 2023 in Auckland. Authority staff will participate in the panel that Air New Zealand has assembled to meet the media.

The RZEP contributes to the Transport element of New Zealand's Emissions Reduction Plan, and is aligned with the Zero Carbon Act.

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**5 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES****Aviation security queues at Auckland International Airport**

On 26 November 2023, passengers experienced queues and longer-than-usual wait times at the international security screening point at Auckland International Airport. The queues caused both frustration for passengers, airlines, and Authority staff, and gained media attention.

The Authority is very much aware of the need to ensure facilitation through the security screening process is efficient as possible while not compromising the security standards required for international (or domestic) flights.

Contributing factors to the queues on 26 November relate to an increase in US operators and US bound flights, accompanied by changes in passenger presentation and cabin baggage behaviours, compared to the norm, and unusually high aircraft loadings. Specifically, this included:

- A change in the profile of when passengers present for screening (much earlier), compared to planning assumptions, driving lane openings, and staffing levels.
- More passengers (due to very high aircraft loadings) compared to the planning assumptions, driving lane openings, and staffing that is based on the information provided by the airlines.
- More carry-on bags per passenger than planning assumptions, which increased the number trays and images to be screened and slowed throughput.
- Some staff who were less experienced – reflecting a systemic issue that exists in many parts of the aviation system post COVID-19 relating to newer staff, possibly impacting the speed of processing the increased passenger and bag numbers than ideal.

The event has been thoroughly reviewed and we are engaging with stakeholders on measures to prevent this from happening again. Follow up information has been provided to media contacts to give a broader understanding of the operating challenges, and actions to manage them, in the system. Further briefings will be provided to you on the issue of queues in due course.

## 5 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES

**Communications and External Engagement****Media plan – week ending 8 December 2023**

Date (planned)	Item	Description	Targeted media
3 December 2023	Comment or statement	Expected continued media coverage on queues at Aviation Security Service, following proactive media engagement and response to enquiries	n/a
3 December 2023	General release	CAA release regarding milestones in relation to the Emerging Tech Programme - two operators have achieved significant milestones in their respective projects and are planning media activity on 5 and 6 December 2023. We have contributed spokespeople for their media activity and will publish a general release from our perspective about the CAA's role in the process.	n/a
3 December 2023	Other	Possible media attention relating to the Aeronautical Information Services contract renewal process; a decision has been made to work directly Aeropath for the provision of the full services, following consideration of the current state, future requirements and the market related to the supply of AIS within New Zealand. The decision was endorsed by the Board at its meeting on 19 October 2023.	n/a

**Media mentions – week ending 1 December 2023**

Date	Activity	Channel
21 November 2023	High-tech drone, jet skis and kayaks collecting vital river data An article about Gisborne District Council using drones to survey rivers around the region over summer; briefly refers to CAA requirements for special permission to fly over private property.	Gisborne Herald
21 November 2023	Security breach at Queenstown Airport A brief mention in a radio news bulletin about a security breach at Queenstown Airport.	Radio NZ



## 5 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES

Date	Activity	Channel
22 November 2023	<p>Police called as Air NZ pilot stood down over Queenstown security incident</p> <p>Comment was provided for this article as follows:</p> <p>Aviation Security Service Group Operations Manager Karen Urwin confirmed that on Saturday 18 November at Queenstown Airport there was an incident at the security screening point. As per standard procedure AvSec personnel called police who are dealing with the matter.</p> <p>There was no risk to the public as a result of this incident and no further action is required. To protect the privacy of the individual involved, no further details will be provided.</p>	Crux (Queenstown)
23 November 2023	<p>'It's a hilux' - new Hamilton made plane takes to the skies</p> <p>Article covering NZAero's new SuperPac XSTOL aircraft, which recently received certification. CAA not expressly mentioned.</p>	The Press
26 November 2023	<p>Aviation Security Queues at Auckland international 26 November</p> <p>Wide media coverage of queues throughout the day. Comment was provided as follows:</p> <p>The Aviation Security Service acknowledges and apologises for the inconvenience to some passengers over recent delays in airport security screening. While safety is never compromised, we are conscious that when people are travelling time is of the essence.</p> <p>The AvSec Operations team have been coordinating support with our National Rostering Centre and the Auckland Airport Company. Lanes were opened where rostered and additional lanes where possible, which was dependent on staff availability. AvSec re-rostered staff from discretionary duties to assist where this could be done. Unfortunately, it was not enough to handle the high demand.</p> <p>We are aware a combination of factors including our forecasting of the number of lanes we could open at peak periods were insufficient for the periods and a number of departing flights to North America for the thanksgiving holiday required more screening time than normal. This was in part due to passengers having more carry-on luggage to be screened which slowed processing down.</p> <p>We will continue to review what has occurred over the last few days including the success or otherwise of any adjustments we have made. Resulting from this review we will continue to work collaboratively with all other airport stakeholders to ensure passenger screening runs as efficiently as possible.</p>	NZ Herald, Three, Newstalk ZB, The Breeze

## 5 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES

26 November 2023	What you can take in carry-on luggage - and tips to make sure nothing is confiscated Long-form article about restricted items. We provided information and Karen Urwin gave a phone interview.	NZ Herald
28 November 2023	Pilot's death ruled accident after six years Coroner's report released into a fatal helicopter accident in 2017.	Otago Daily Times

## Upcoming education

Planned release/publication	What	Type	Why
July – December 2023 (multiple dates)	Dangerous Goods	Face-to-face event	To provide training and qualification for the carriage of DG
December 2023 – January 2024	All stories from Vector special issue	Vector Online article(s)	Ongoing education by putting some Vector articles online for anyone to access
December 2023	Vector Summer Issue	Aviation industry magazine	A way of getting relevant safety information to industry in an easy-to-read format
February 2024	Secure Your Aircraft	GAP booklet (update)	BAU version update
March 2024	Vector Autumn Issue	Aviation industry magazine	A way of getting relevant safety information to industry in an easy-to-read format
March 2024	In, Out and Around Queenstown	GAP booklet (update)	BAU version update
Throughout 2024	Occurrence Investigation Workshop	Face-to-face event	To provide training for operators about investigating occurrences, to comply with requirements under CAR Part 12
TBC	Weather Card	Safety education product	BAU version update



### New inquiries / International Assistance

Notice of a new aviation inquiry AO-2023-011 opened by the Commission on 6 October 2023

The Civil Aviation Authority notified the Commission on 5 October 2023 of an incident involving two aircraft conducting night circuit flying at Ardmore Aerodrome on 3 October 2023 at about 2125 hours.

The circumstances reported to date are that while conducting circuits and on short finals a Beechcraft Duchess BE76 (registered ZK-JED) was intending to conduct a touch-and-go and passed approximately 20 feet overhead of a Cessna C172 (registered ZK-WFS), that was intending to land. ZK-WFS commenced a go-around and then landed safely. There was no collision, no damage, and nobody was injured.

The Commissioner has opened an inquiry under section 13(1) of the TAIC Act 1990 and appointed Graham Thomas as Lead Investigator. They will be supported by Ian McClelland.

Notice of a new rail inquiry RO-2023-105 opened by the Commission on 9 October 2023

The New Zealand Transport Agency notified the Commission on 9 October 2023 of a derailment involving a tamper vehicle that occurred on the North Island Main Trunk Line near Glen Innes at about 0025 hours this morning.

The circumstances reported to date are that a tamper group were travelling to a work site when they entered Purewa Tunnel where rail had been removed. The first tamper machine derailed, with no injuries reported.

The Commissioner has opened an inquiry under Section 13(1) of the TAIC Act 1990 and appointed Dave Manuel as investigator in charge. They will be supported by Jason Lawn.

5 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES



No update this week.

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## Directory

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## 1 Actions from transport officials' meeting

Meeting with the Ministry of Transport (the Ministry) and NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) – 4 December 2023	Due date
<p><b>Speed Changes</b></p> <p>Officials to provide briefing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rule change seeking Ministerial agreement to commence rule drafting.</li> <li>• RCA's progress under current rule.</li> </ul> <p>Preference to take draft rule and Cabinet paper to Cabinet Committee in week commencing 11 December 2023, with Cabinet approval on 18 December 2023</p>	<p>Briefing and Cabinet paper provided 6 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Let's Get Wellington Moving</b></p> <p>Officials to review draft letters and draft Letter of Expectation for NZTA</p>	<p>Letters provided.</p>
<p><b>Clean Car Discount</b></p> <p>Officials to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with PCO on drafting timeframes. Preference to seek Cabinet agreement to introduce Bill on 11 December 2023.</li> <li>• Provide advice before COP 4 December 2023 on implications of secondary legislative changes.</li> </ul>	<p>Advice and draft legislative paper provided.</p>
<p><b>Government Policy Statement (GPS)</b></p> <p>Officials meeting 4:30-5:30pm on 5 December 2023 to be a GPS specific session. A draft GPS is to be prepared for your summer reading.</p> <p>Additional advice on the GPS to be provided on 8 December 2023 (see 100-Day section)</p>	<p>Meeting held on 5 December 2023.</p> <p>Advice provided on 8 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Potholes and the impacts of regulation</b></p> <p>Officials to provide a briefing on the impact of regulations on the efficiency of potholes being filled.</p>	<p>The Ministry to seek information from NZTA.</p>
<p><b>Road User Charges (RUC) for EVs</b></p> <p>Officials to prepare Cabinet paper s 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Paper provided.</p>



## 1 ACTIONS FROM TRANSPORT OFFICIALS' MEETING

Meeting with the Ministry of Transport (the Ministry) and NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) – 4 December 2023	Due date
<b>Regional Fuel Tax</b> Office to convey letter from Mayor on funding priorities to Ministry to inform the Cabinet paper.	Office confirmed not required.
<b>Project iRex</b> Officials to provide briefing on 5 December 2023, including available options and impact of potential withdrawal.	Briefing provided.
<b>Board Appointments</b> Officials to prepare letters.	Letters provided but not required.

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## 2 Updates on 100-Day Plan

### 100 Day Plan updates

#### Confirming investment priorities for GPS24

Following our meeting with you on 5 December 2023, we have provided you an additional briefing and materials for your consideration (OC231033 refers).

We would like to discuss your feedback on that briefing and associated materials at our regularly scheduled officials meeting on 11 December 2023.

After we have your feedback, we will finalise the first draft GPS for submission to you on 15 December 2023 for discussion on 18 December 2023.

*Responsibility: Paul O'Connell, DCE Sector Strategy*

#### Cancel Auckland Light Rail

A Cabinet paper has been sent to your Office for Ministerial consultation for you to take direct to Cabinet on 18 December 2023.

The paper will seek decisions to cancel the project and disestablish the company, and authorise the shareholding Ministers (Finance, Housing, Transport) to action this. A subsequent briefing for later in December 2023 is being prepared to go to shareholding Ministers that will seek the necessary Shareholders' decisions to give effect to Cabinet's decisions.

*Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment & Monitoring Group*

#### Removing the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax

A Cabinet paper has been sent to your Office for Ministerial consultation. The paper is intended to be lodged on 7 December 2023 for the 100 Day Plan Committee on 13 December 2023, and Cabinet on 18 December 2023. <sup>s 9(2)(f)(iv)</sup>

*Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment & Monitoring Group*

#### Removing the Clean Car Discount Scheme by 31 December 2023

The Cabinet paper seeking approval to introduce the Land Transport (Clean Vehicle Discount Scheme Repeal) Amendment Bill was provided to you on 6 December 2023. It was accompanied by the documents needed to support the passage of the Bill through the House. The paper is intended to be considered by Cabinet on 11 December 2023.

We have reviewed the first draft of the Bill that we received from PCO on 6 December 2023. We expect to receive a second draft for forwarding to you on 8 December 2023.

Following Cabinet's consideration of the paper the remaining steps to secure legislation to repeal the Clean Car Discount are in the table overleaf.

## 2 UPDATES ON 100-DAY PLAN

100 Day Plan updates	
Documents for Minister's consideration	Date to Minister
Briefing providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated Ministerial Direction to NZTA to end the scheme</li> <li>New funding Deed with NZTA to repeal existing one</li> </ul> The legislation has to be amended before you can sign the Ministerial Direction and co-sign the Funding Deed with the Minister of Finance	15 December 2023
Bill progresses through all stages of the House	13 – 20 December 2023
Act obtains Royal Assent	21 December 2023
<i>Responsibility: Siobhan Routledge, Acting DCE Policy Group</i>	
<b>Resetting approach to speed limits</b> <p>We have provided you with a draft Cabinet paper proposing amendments to the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2022 (the Rule) to remove deadlines for speed management plans and the date by which speed limits need to be changed around schools. The amendments to the Rule also remove the mandatory requirement for road controlling authorities and regional transport committees to produce speed management plans. We have also provided your Office with a draft press release to accompany these amendments along with letters to road controlling authorities and regional transport committees.</p> <p>We had an initial meeting with the Automobile Association (the AA) this week to discuss its views on the Rule and the speed management system more broadly. We are looking to meet with the AA again next week and will be seeking a meeting with Transporting New Zealand to understand its views on the Rule and speed management from a freight perspective.</p> <p>We are also continuing to work on the recommended changes to the Rule to give effect to the Government's policy direction.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE, Regulatory Group</i></p>	

### 3 Upcoming briefings

Briefings to Minister Brown – Other Priorities	Due date
<p><b>Maritime New Zealand funding review</b></p> <p>We have briefed you on the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) funding review and have prepared a briefing on the Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) funding review. The MNZ funding review is further advanced than the CAA review. If the fees and levies proposed by MNZ are approved by Cabinet in the new year, then MNZ will not require Crown liquidity support in the 2024/25 financial year.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 15 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Update on the Auckland City Rail Link project</b></p> <p>This briefing to you and the Minister of Finance provides an update on the City Rail Link (CRL) project. It outlines your roles as joint sponsors of the project, provides an overview of key issues and risks, and seeks your approval to a preferred option to progress works at Henderson station which are needed to support CRL operations.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 15 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Transport Crown entity board appointments</b></p> <p>This briefing seeks your in-principle decisions on the reappointment or replacement of board members whose terms expire in 2024, as well as outstanding matters from 2023.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 22 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Six-month impoundment implementation</b></p> <p>In August, Parliament passed the Land Transport (Road Safety) Amendment Act 2023 (the Act) extending the period a vehicle can be impounded after failing to stop for Police (fleeing drivers) from 28 days to six months. This is due come into force on 1 March 2024. At the same time, the previous Minister of Transport agreed to a review to manage financial and operational challenges for towage and storage operators.</p> <p>In early 2024, the Ministry needs to communicate with stakeholders about the commencement of six-month impoundment to allow operators time to prepare. This briefing will seek your guidance on how you wish to progress with the review, to inform our communications.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE, Regulatory Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 22 December 2023.</p>

## 3 UPCOMING BRIEFINGS

Briefings to Minister Brown – Other Priorities	Due date
<p><b>Freight and Supply Chain issues</b></p> <p>Following your meeting with the Council of Cargo Owners on 7 December 2023, you have sought further information on a number of issues raised, including the Port of Tauranga and green shipping corridors. This briefing will also provide an opportunity to brief you on the Ministry's work on the Freight and Supply Chain Strategy and engagement with industry (including opportunities to build engagement).</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Siobhan Routledge, Acting DCE Policy Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 22 December 2023</p>
Briefings to Minister Brown – Routine Matters	Due date
<p><b>Climate Change Commission advice</b></p> <p>On 28 November 2023, the Climate Change Commission (the Commission) tendered its final advice for the Second Emissions Reduction Plan to the Climate Change Minister. We understand the report has now been shared with your Office. The report is considered market sensitive and will not be made public until it is tabled in Parliament on 12 December 2023. We understand the report includes recommendations related to the Transport portfolio. Officials will provide you with further advice when the report is publicly released (note only officials at the Ministry for the Environment have had an opportunity to read the final advice at this stage).</p> <p>We anticipate the final advice to be similar to their draft advice released earlier this year. This included recommendations relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simplifying planning and increasing funding of integrated transport networks that optimise public and active transport.</li> <li>• Rapidly resolving the barriers to scaling up vehicle charging infrastructure.</li> <li>• Developing incentives to accelerate the uptake of zero emissions commercial vehicles, including vans, utes and trucks.</li> </ul> <p><i>Responsibility: Siobhan Routledge, Acting DCE Policy Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 15 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Strengthening system performance through Crown entity monitoring</b></p> <p>This briefing provides an overview of your role as responsible Minister for transport Crown entities, including the levers you have available to influence their governance, strategic direction, and performance.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 15 December 2023.</p>

Briefings to Minister Brown – Routine Matters	Due date
<p><b>Documents for Laying Before or Presenting to the House of Representatives</b></p> <p>The New Zealand Transport Agency (Tyre Product Stewardship Fee) Direction 2023 and Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Exhaust Emissions Rule 2023 were made after the dissolution of Parliament and gazetted. Statutory process now requires them to be tabled in the House.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE, Regulatory Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 15 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Air New Zealand: Kiwi Shareholder</b></p> <p>The Kiwi Share is a single \$1 special rights convertible preference share issued by Air New Zealand to the Crown that confers certain rights and responsibilities on the holder.</p> <p>A named individual, usually the Minister of Transport, is traditionally the Kiwi Shareholder. Until Air New Zealand is advised otherwise, the former Minister of Transport, Hon David Parker, is the Kiwi Shareholder.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE, Regulatory Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 15 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Air New Zealand and Singapore Airlines Alliance Reauthorisation – initial advice</b></p> <p>Air New Zealand and Singapore Airlines have applied for re-authorisation of their airline alliance which was first authorised in 2014 and re-authorised in 2018.</p> <p>We will provide you with initial advice in mid December 2023 to allow you to discuss with officials before a final report is submitted to you in early 2024, as the current authorisation expires on 28 March 2024.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE, Regulatory Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 15 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>Meeting with City Rail Link Limited’s Chair and Chief Executive 18 December 2023</b></p> <p>This briefing provides you with information and suggested talking points for your first meeting as Minister with John Bridgeman (Chair) and Dr Sean Sweeney (Chief Executive) of City Rail Link Limited, now scheduled to take place the week ending 22 December 2023.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 22 December 2023.</p>

## 3 UPCOMING BRIEFINGS

Briefings to Minister Brown – Routine Matters	Due date
<p><b>Petition of Claire Dale: Make mobility parking enforceable on all public-use property and increase fines</b></p> <p>Prior to the closing of the last Parliament, the Petition Committee’s recommendations on the petition of Claire Dale were presented to Parliament. You are responsible for tabling the Government’s response to the Petition Committee’s recommendations in accordance with Standing Order 252, which has strict timelines.</p> <p>We expect to provide you with a briefing, draft Cabinet paper, and draft Government response in the week ending 19 January 2024. However, these times will be brought forward if the Christmas break is shortened.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE, Regulatory Group</i></p>	<p>Week ending 19 January 2024.</p>

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## 4 Key updates

### Minister Brown

#### National Land Transport Fund revenue in the Half Yearly Economic and Fiscal Update (HYEFU)

The Treasury will publish HYEFU 2023 on 14 December 2023.

HYEFU 2023 will report that anticipated revenues to the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) over the three years covered by GPS 2024 will be \$125 million less than anticipated in the Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Update (PREFU). Only approved tax increases are included in Economic and Fiscal Updates.

The main reason for the difference between the two forecasts is that Treasury are anticipating that crude oil prices will be 17 percent higher in 2024 than forecast in PREFU.

Total net NLTF revenues and the difference between PREFU and HYEFU are summarised in the following table.

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
HYEFU	\$4.020b	\$4.311b	\$4.429b
Difference	-\$171.34m	\$37.78m	\$8.46m

Most of the variation is concentrated in the first year, amounting to 4 percent less NLTF revenue in 2024. A reduction of this scale in a single year is material. However, over the three years of GPS 2024 forecast revenue is just one percent down on PREFU. A one percent difference in forecasts is not significant and within the normal bounds of variability between consecutive Economic and Fiscal Update forecasts.

*Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment & Monitoring Group*

#### Next steps:

For your information only.



## 5 Cabinet papers

Committees	
<b>Cabinet</b>	
11 December 2023	<p><b>Taking action on our 100-day commitment to stop blanket speed limit reductions and start work on a new Rule</b></p> <p>This paper seeks Cabinet's approval to submit the Land Transport Rule Setting of Speed Limits Amendment 2023 (the Amendment Rule) to Executive Council. The Amendment Rule revokes NZ Transport Agency's ability to set deadlines that speed management plans must be submitted by and gives the Minister of Transport this power. It also removes the deadlines and targets for when speed limits must be reviewed around schools.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE Regulatory Group</i></p>
	<p><b>Land transport (Clean Vehicle Discount Scheme Repeal) Amendment Bill</b></p> <p>This paper provides Cabinet with a draft of the Land Transport (Clean Vehicle Discount Scheme Repeal) Amendment Bill (the Bill). It also seeks Cabinet's agreement to delegate the power to approve the Bill for introduction to the Minister of Transport.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Siobhan Routledge, Acting DCE Policy Group</i></p>
<b>100-Day Committee</b>	
13 December 2023	<p><b>Removing the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax Scheme</b></p> <p>This paper seeks agreement to end the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax Scheme <sup>s 9(2)(f)(iv)</sup> framework for regional fuel taxes.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>
20 December 2023	<p><b>Give effect to the Government's 100-Day Action Plan to cease works on Auckland Light Rail</b></p> <p>This paper seeks Cabinet's approval to cancel the project and disestablish Auckland Light Rail Limited, and authorise the shareholding Ministers (Finance, Housing, Transport) to action.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>
<b>Cabinet Business Committee (CBC)</b>	
13 December 2023	<p><b>Transitioning light electric vehicles to RUC</b></p> <p>This paper seeks Cabinet's approval <sup>s 9(2)(f)(iv)</sup> to ensure the appropriate settings are in place when the light EV RUC exemption expires on 31 March 2024.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>

## 6 Cabinet papers led by other agencies

No Cabinet papers this week.

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## 7 Updates from Transport Crown entities and state-owned enterprises (SOE)




### 100 Day action plan progress

COMMITMENT	UPDATE
<p><b>5. Withdraw central government from Let's Get Wellington Moving</b></p>	<p>NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) has provided a briefing to you and the NZTA Board advising possible next steps for LGWM, noting that some projects within the programme will continue. The Board will discuss LGWM at its December 2023 meeting.</p> <p>Affected staff have been identified.</p>
<p><b>6. Meet with councils and communities to establish regional requirements for recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle and other recent major flooding events.</b></p>	<p>NZTA is supporting your visits to four areas affected by Cyclone Gabrielle or other recent major flooding events. The visits involve site visits and meeting with local government elected members and officials. The areas being visited are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>1 December - State Highway 1 Brynderwyn Hills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brett Gliddon, Group General Manager Transport Services and Steve Mutton, Director Regional Relationships Auckland and Northland, accompanied you on a visit to the Brynderwyn Hills in Northland on 1 December 2023 where you saw the resilience challenges and met with local government elected members. The visit was well received by the elected members and business leaders.</li> <li>The road will need to close for 7 weeks in early 2024 for immediate remedial works. Engagement is underway with the community to understand their previous experiences and their views on when and how to close the road to minimise disruption. The engagement includes a survey and public and 2 public webinars. A steering group of senior business leaders from Northland has been established. The group will provide a recommendation and detailed information about the timing and impacts of the closure to NZTA, informed by the results of the survey.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)

COMMITMENT	UPDATE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>8 December - Wairoa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NZTA has provided advice to the DMPC to support your visit with the Prime Minister to Wairoa District Council.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>15 December - State Highway 25A Taparahi</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NZTA is supporting your visit to the construction site for the new bridge and meeting with Thames-Coromandel District Council.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>16 December - Hawke’s Bay and Gisborne</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are visiting local sites impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle and meeting with:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Hawke’s Bay District Council</li> <li>• Hastings District Council</li> <li>• Hawke’s Bay Regional Council</li> <li>• Napier City Council</li> <li>• Wairoa District Council</li> <li>• Gisborne District Council</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Marlborough Sounds (and the wider Marlborough and Nelson region) suffered four high intensity rain events during 2021 and 2022. Marlborough District Council (MDC) has completed the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Programme Business Case (MSFAP) which addresses the damage and provides a long-term sustainable solution for access to the Marlborough Sounds (including some lowering of Levels of Service and proposals for not reinstating access to some roads in future events). The NZTA Board will consider the business case this month, and MDC will then undertake a Special Consultative Procedure in early 2024, before seeking funding from the National Land Transport Fund in March/April 2024.</p>
<p><b>7. Make any additional Orders in Council (OICs) needed to accelerate cyclone and flood recovery efforts</b></p>	<p>NZTA continues to assess recovery works required and is seeking to establish a clear picture of further streamlining needed in addition to an OIC (or primary legislation modification). NZTA has two OICs for specific cyclone recovery locations and activities (one for Land Transport Management Act process and one for land use) already in place. This work is complicated by the lack of certainty of funding for recovery/resilience works.</p> <p>NZTA anticipates that any further OICs would take the same time as previous OICs, given DPMC direction to-date has been that further OICs would need to follow the same process including consultation with iwi and stakeholders and meet the</p> <p><i>(continued next page)</i></p>

## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)

COMMITMENT	UPDATE
	same tests as previous OICs. Consultation processes with these stakeholder groups at this time of year would be challenging.
<b>8. Start reducing public sector expenditure, including consultant and contractor spend</b>	NZTA has stood up an Efficiency and Effectiveness team from within the business to deliver a sustained lift in efficiency and effectiveness and cashable savings in 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. NZTA has already started implementing initiatives related to headcount and expenditure.
<b>10. Introduce legislation to remove the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax</b>	s 9(2)(f)(iv) 
<b>11. Cancel fuel tax hikes</b>	The Ministry is leading on this action with NZTA advising on funding and project impacts once timing is confirmed.
<b>12. Begin work on a new GPS reflecting the new Roads of National Significant and new public transport priorities</b>	The Ministry has advised that a revised Government Policy Statement is being drafted and will be provided to NZTA by end of day 11 December 2023. The feedback is due back to the Ministry by midday on 13 December 2023.
<b>13. Repeal the Clean Car Discount scheme by 31 December 2023</b>	Work is on track to end the charging of fees and filing of rebate applications by 31 December 2023. The work is provisional on legislation being repealed for fees and an update of the Ministerial Direction for the rebates. The plan for IT systems changes has been scheduled to align with the legislative close date of 31 December 2023 and discussions are underway to work through possible communication plans for the industry. In addition, formal HR processes and organisational redesign has

7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)

COMMITMENT	UPDATE
	<p><i>(continued)</i></p> <p>commenced for the impact that ceasing the scheme will have on operational staff.</p> <p>NZTA’s role is to support you and the Ministry in the progression and passing of primary and secondary legislation and the Ministerial Direction. NZTA is providing information to the Ministry on changes to the current Funding Deed to aid both you and the Minister of Finance in amending the current Funding Deed and, if necessary, agreeing a new Deed with NZTA to terminate the existing funding arrangements and enable the wind-down of the scheme.</p>
<p><b>14. Stop blanket speed limit reductions and start work on replacing the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2022</b></p>	<p>On 6 December 2023, NZTA provided feedback to the Ministry on a draft Cabinet paper seeking agreement to targeted amendments to the Setting of Speed Limits Rule (the Rule).</p> <p>Under the current Rule, NZTA has set a deadline of March 2024 for submitting speed management plans and targets are also in place for setting speed limits outside schools that are specified in the Rule.</p> <p>s 9(2)(f)(iv)</p>
<p><b>15. Stop central government work on the Auckland Light Rail project</b></p>	<p>This is an Auckland Light Rail action.</p> <p>It impacts other projects in Auckland and NZTA is working though this with the Ministry.</p>

## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)

## Key updates

TITLE	UPDATE
<p><b>Increased demand for driver licence testing</b></p>	<p>On 1 October 2023, driver licence fees changed to an all-in-one fee for each stage of a driver licence. In addition, fees to re-sit a driver test, or to cancel or reschedule a test, were removed.</p> <p>Since then, the Automobile Association (AA) and Vehicle Testing New Zealand (VTNZ), who provide driver licensing services on behalf of NZTA, have seen increased demand for driver licence tests.</p> <p>For example, in June 2023, NZTA received 30,633 practical test booking requests (both restricted and full licence tests). In October 2023, after the new fees went live, practical test booking requests were 58 percent higher than in June 2023, at 48,535. In November 2023, this figure fell back to 46,575, but still remains 52 percent above June 2023 figures. This increase in demand is currently increasing the time people are waiting to sit their practical tests. The average wait time for practical tests has increased to above the VTNZ key performance indicator of 30 days in all regions (as high as 91 days for restricted tests in the Auckland Northwest region).</p> <p>Additionally, theory test bookings increased from 16,755 in June 2023, to 24,787 in October 2023, representing a 48 percent increase. In November 2023, this increased further to 25,442, 52 percent more than June 2023. There has also been a significant increase in the number of people taking a theory test more than once a day.</p> <p>More analysis is underway to understand the drivers and impacts of this increased demand, including whether the change in fees is leading to higher levels of non-attendance at scheduled tests and changes in pass/failure rates. This analysis will inform necessary changes to manage wait times. NZTA will provide this analysis to you in future updates. In the interim, NZTA is working closely with AA and VTNZ to ensure it can reduce the impact of demand on people wanting to sit their licensing tests.</p>
<p><b>Auckland Urban Programme</b></p>	<p>Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and NZTA have been working in partnership to develop an Urban Programme (the Programme) to deliver on a key initiative in s10.1.2 of the Emissions Reduction Plan to 'design programmes to reduce total light fleet VKT in our largest cities'. The Programme provides an integrated view of the land use and transport planning, policy and investment changes required to optimise the wider Auckland Transport system. This work is now complete and will be presented to the Auckland Transport Alignment Project in mid-December 2023, with papers relating to the programme being publicly accessible from 7 December 2023.</p>

## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)

TITLE	UPDATE
	<p>The Programme provides an evidence base of packages and interventions to deliver efficiencies largely utilising/repurposing the existing system and reducing congestion across the network while also having the potential to defer large costly infrastructure projects and deliver wider benefits including emissions reduction, equity and health benefits.</p> <p>The initial cost estimate is \$20.4bn capital expenditure. This estimate includes expenditure for committed work programmes and provides for improvements across most of the existing urban area (not just one corridor). The Programme does not commit any implementation funding, but it can be used to inform planning processes such as the Auckland Integrated Transport Plan. Next steps will be to identify which projects and initiatives would most benefit from integrating insights from this work and complete further analysis to understand any additional cost that would be required to deliver the outcomes.</p>
<p><b>SmartTrip road pricing – NZTA submission on the Tauranga City Council draft 2024-2034 Long Term Plan</b></p>	<p>Tauranga City Council (TCC) is leading work on SmartTrip – a variable road pricing charge to reduce congestion and fund transport improvements. NZTA co-funded and co-governed the investigation along with TCC. As part of their draft 2024 Long Term Plan, TCC is seeking public feedback on whether to “work with NZTA and Government to further investigate SmartTrip through a business case investigation.”</p> <p>Under current settings, TCC is not permitted to introduce place-based road pricing. NZTA will make a submission in support of TCC exploring a form of place-based road pricing through a business case investigation. Although it is not usual practice for NZTA to make a submission on Long Term Plan’s, it has an interest in supporting local inquiry into the efficacy of transport interventions, including forms of economic pricing. As part of the submission, NZTA will be endorsing the value of using all appropriate intervention levers, including economic pricing, to improve the performance of networks and services and manage travel demand, not specifically endorsing SmartTrip.</p> <p>NZTA will also be inviting TCC to work with it, the Ministry of Transport and other interested councils (such as Auckland Council) to support a nationally consistent approach to investigating and implementing variable pricing. Submissions are due to TCC by 15 December 2023 with public hearings in February 2024.</p>
<p><b>Te Ara Hauāuru - Northwest Rapid Transit</b></p>	<p>The public feedback summary, from the first phase of engagement, was published this week and emailed to submitters and stakeholders. Nearly 4000 people completed the consultation survey as part of the first phase of engagement, with 93 percent of people expressing support for rapid transit in the northwest.</p>

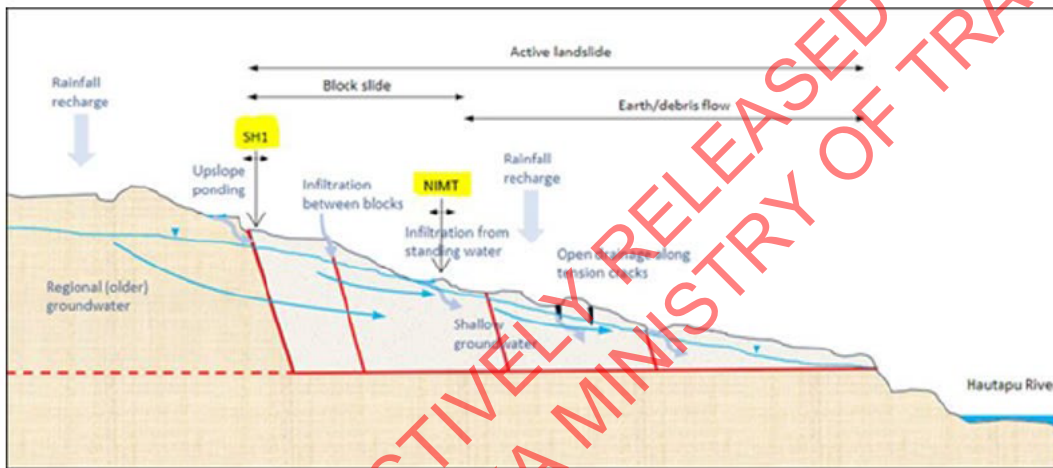


7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)

TITLE	UPDATE
	<p><i>(continued)</i></p> <p>Investigations and analysis as part of the Detailed Business Case are ongoing with confirmation of an emerging preferred option expected before Christmas 2023.</p> <p>NZTA anticipates holding community engagement on the emerging preferred option in April 2024.</p>
<p><b>Takitimu North Link Stage Two</b></p>	<p>The Takitimu North Link Stage Two project team is working to lodge the Notices of Requirement (NoR) and resource consent applications under the Resource Management Act (RMA) for the new 7-kilometre highway and shared use path between Te Puna and Ōmokoroa imminently (December 2023 / January 2024).</p> <p>Both the Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council regulatory arms will receive the NoR and resource consent applications and will process these accordingly. This is an important step to protect the route and ensure the necessary RMA approvals are in place to provide certainty that the project can be constructed when funding becomes available.</p> <p>A media release and other communications are being prepared.</p>
<p><b>National Māori action day protests</b></p>	<p>On 5 December 2023, protest marches and convoys were held around the country in response to the Te Pāti Maori call for action against the new government’s policies on co-governance and the Treaty.</p> <p>Police led the operational planning and response to the protest activity with NZTA in support, as there was potential to cause significant congestion, disruption and delays on key highways and arterial routes across many towns and cities across the country.</p> <p>During the protest activity, both the NZTA and Auckland Transport transport operations centres monitored and supported in real-time, with the biggest delays to the transport network seen in Auckland. As Police anticipate further protest activity, and that it may escalate in scale in the future, NZTA will continue supporting Police in their operational planning and response.</p>
<p><b>Utiku Landslide – State Highway 1 south of Taihape</b></p>	<p>State Highway 1 traverses the head of a large (approximately 40 hectares), slow-moving landslide at Utiku, between Mangaweka and Taihape. The North Island main trunk rail line also traverses the mid-section of the affected area.</p> <p>Ground movement here can be triggered by rainfall, leading to various levels of risk and disruption to State Highway 1.</p> <p>After a wet winter and autumn, an increase in the rate of movement has caused cracking and displacement of the road. A temporary lane re-alignment along the road’s upper (western)</p> <p><i>(continued next page)</i></p>

7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)

TITLE	UPDATE
	<p>shoulder has maintained two-way traffic, but at a 30km/h limit for about 1.2km. This has been in place since September 2023, along with increased monitoring to improve NZTA's understanding of the landslide, movement, and water levels.</p> <p>Although sudden total failure is unlikely, it would have major consequences. An economic analysis shows the cost to national and local connections would be in excess of \$100m, besides the risk to human life.</p> <p>Therefore, in the interim, short-term works will be carried out to reinstate the road to normal operating state by the end of March 2024. Work on that began the week commencing 4 December 2023. Images provided below.</p>



Cross section of slip area, with State Highway 1 and North Island Main Trunk line location



Cracking due to ground movement

## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)

## Media updates

TITLE	UPDATE
<b>Auckland/Northland - Auckland Rapid Transit network</b>	A media statement is planned for release during the week beginning 11 December 2023, alongside a summary of community feedback on a rapid transit corridor along State Highway 16 from Brigham Creek to the city centre. With 93 percent of people expressing support for rapid transit along State Highway 16, NZTA will be investigating the potential rapid transit options to provide the best solution for the growing northwest.  Engagement with communities to update people on investigations and share a preferred option will happen next year.
<b>Auckland/Northland - Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth</b>	A media release is being planned for distribution during the week beginning 11 December 2023 following the motorway being open for six months, highlighting that its safety features have already prevented potential head on crashes as well as journey time savings.
<b>Waikato/Bay of Plenty – State Highway 2 Baypark to Bayfair Link</b>	A media release will be issued on 15 December 2023 celebrating the pou whenua installation and blessing at the SH2 Baypark to Bayfair Link. As part of the project, 3 x 6 metre mahi toi (artworks) will be installed at the State Highway 29A roundabout next week.
<b>Waikato/Bay of Plenty - Hewletts Road rail crossing</b>	A media release will be issued on 15 December 2023 marking the completion and blessing of the safety improvements to the Hewletts Road rail crossing in Tauranga with the installation of a paved and fenced pedestrian maze and additional fencing to prevent crossing at other areas along the track.
<b>Central North Island - Transport Rebuild East Coast (TREC) releases</b>	Two media statements are planned for release by the TREC alliance (one for Hawke's Bay and one for Tairāwhiti) with an overview of a summer of planned maintenance activity in the regions.
<b>Central North Island - Hikuwai Bridge overloading</b>	A media statement is planned for release to remind commercial vehicle drivers not to overload the Hikuwai Bailey Bridge, as there is evidence showing heavy vehicles above the recommended limit are using the bridge, instead of the approved local road bypass.
<b>Central North Island - Te Ahu a Turānga 2023 milestones</b>	A media release is planned as an overview of the key milestones throughout 2023 (earthworks, pavements, structures, and landscaping), featuring some messages of thanks to the Alliance team and the public for support.
<b>Wellington - Te Ara Tupua - Ngauranga to Pito-one, artificial reef announcement</b>	A media statement is tentatively planned for release during the week beginning 11 December 2023 to announce contract details for this work.

## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)

**Rangitata**

A coastal shipping vessel that was detained in early November 2023 after experiencing engine issues has this week arrived in Auckland to be repaired at a dry dock.

On 4 December 2023, the cargo vessel *Rangitata* arrived and docked in Auckland, four days after it departed Wellington. It was escorted to Auckland by the *Christine Mary*, a 22-metre, 122 tonne towage vessel. Prior to the vessel departing Wellington, Maritime NZ was presented with a suitable passage plan, risk assessment, towage plan and a certificate issued by Class stating it was safe to be towed as required by the updated detention notice. These conditions were satisfied before its departure from CentrePort on 30 November 2023. The journey was made under the updated detention notice permitting the ship to undertake a single voyage from Wellington to Auckland for repair.

The vessel will now go to dry dock for repairs. Once these have been completed, the vessel will be re-inspected against the general conditions of the Maritime NZ detention order. It will need to satisfy these conditions as well as work with its classification society and satisfactorily complete a Maritime NZ safety management audit before it is able to return to service.

NB: A ship classification society is a non-government organisation that establishes and maintains technical standards for the construction and operation of ships and offshore structures.

**Maritime in the media**

On 1 December 2023, Maritime NZ put out a proactive media release relating to the sentencing of Ports of Auckland Limited in connection to the death of stevedore Pala'amo Kalati, who died in August 2020 after being struck by a container. The release accompanied the sentencing of POAL, after they pleaded guilty to charges in relation to the death, and an Adverse Publicity Order (which means that POAL publishes its guilt in relation to the matters widely to the public). We were pleased that POAL admitted responsibility for what occurred and the reparations and actions they have undertaken in response. Our media release was an opportunity not just to talk about the risks of port work, and that we were pleased for closure for the victims, but also to talk about the improvements that have occurred within the sector since the Port Health and Safety Leadership Group was stood up 20 months ago, and to recognise that POAL has been active in this work. The content was picked up by multiple mainstream media outlets and they conveyed the messages Maritime NZ put forward.

On 27 November 2023, Lyttelton Port Company (LPC) pled guilty to a representative charge under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, in relation to the death of Donald Grant on 25 April 2022. Mr Grant died after he was struck by coal while it was being loaded into a vessel's hatch. This week, Newsroom reporter David Williams requested an update from the 27 November hearing. We confirmed to the reporter that LPC had pled guilty, and its sentencing date is 5 March 2024.

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**7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)**

*(Continued)*

On 30 November 2023, we updated media about a decision to file charges against the skipper of a recreational vessel involved in a collision with ferry in Russell during April 2023. This was a high-profile incident at the time, the ferry's skipper was severely injured and other passengers suffered lesser injuries. The ferry sunk a few hours after the collision. This media release was widely picked up by mainstream media outlets.

As more people are getting out and undertaking outdoor activities, we are seeing an increase in media requests around rescues coordinated by Maritime NZ's Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand. Over the last week we have provided comments on two rescues that occurred in Mt Aspiring National Park. One which saw two climbers needing to be airlifted off the mountain. Another where a trumper injured their ankle and was airlifted to hospital with the other member of their tramping party. We took opportunities with both stories to reiterate the need for trampers and climbers to carry beacons in case they need to call for assistance.

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## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)



**Aviation Security Service**  
*Kaiwhakamaru Rererangi*

## Key updates

### Meeting with the Authority on 5 December 2023

Janice Fredric (Chairperson of the Authority), Keith Manch (CEO) and Mark Wheeler (General manager of AvSec) met with you on Tuesday 5 December. We appreciated this useful opportunity to discuss a range of critical civil aviation matters and thank you for making time available. We agreed to follow up on a number of actions which we will address as soon as possible:

- Providing you with regular reports on Aviation Security queues
- Preparing a briefing on the ICAO security audit, the findings, and our progress in addressing the findings
- Providing you with a briefing on the Authority Pricing Review. The briefing will give an overview of the background and rationale of the review, the cost drivers and the options we have considered, along with future timelines. This will include specific information about the way in which emerging technology activity can or could be funded

We welcome your interest in sector engagement opportunities, and we invite your office to engage with us before Christmas to make arrangements for any such opportunities that might interest you. For example, we may be able to arrange a visit to an AvSec station and airport for an in-depth insight into aviation security. We will also extend an invitation through your office to the first Aviation Security Stewardship Group next year.

### Regulatory Stewardship and Civil Aviation Rules

Regulatory stewardship refers to action to ensure that all elements of the regulatory system are 'fit for purpose' in achieving the outcomes desired from that regulatory system. This specifically includes ensuring that the regulatory requirements that are imposed on the aviation industry are 'fit for purpose'. The Briefing for the Incoming Minister we provided to you noted the following on page 34.

*Some rules are overly prescriptive and have become out of date, and others are structured in a way that is not well aligned with modern regulatory practices. Aside from creating both aviation safety and legal risks, this can create an increased regulatory burden on the aviation sector and hinder innovation. Rapid changes in technology across the sector require a flexible and responsive regulator, and good regulatory stewardship is critical to achieving this.*

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the possibility of changing the way the Civil Aviation Rules are made and/or amended in a way that is more responsive, enables better collaboration with the sector, and results in better outcomes aligned to the purposes of the current and future Civil Aviation Acts.

We would be happy to engage further on this with you if you wish.

## Emerging Technology

There were two milestones for emerging aviation technology this week:

- Wisk Aero announced a successful trial flight of a remotely piloted aircraft in mainstream airspace near Christchurch. This is a first in New Zealand; Previously remotely piloted aircraft have had to fly in specially designated airspace away from other traditionally piloted aircraft.
- Air New Zealand have announced the aircraft they have chosen for their reduced zero emission programme, which we mentioned in last week's report. It is a battery powered electric aircraft (BETA's Alia CTOL).

As mentioned in last week's report, Authority staff were part of a Panel to meet the media and we were able to share our role in the process.

## New Southern Sky programme comes to a close

The New Southern Sky (NSS) programme comes to a close on 31 December 2023 after a decade of effort. NSS, launched in 2014 by then-Minister of Transport, Gerry Brownlee, is a programme to modernise New Zealand's airspace and air navigation systems through the implementation of the Cabinet directed National Airspace and Air Navigation Plan. The over 50 projects and tasks as part of NSS have delivered major regulatory and infrastructure changes. The changes have brought about safety, environmental and efficiency benefits for the New Zealand aviation system as a whole.

A comprehensive Benefits Report will be tabled at the final Governance Group meeting on 12 December. The Governance Group comprises the Authority as programme lead, Airways NZ, the Ministry of Transport, and supported by an independent commercial barrister.

## Communications and External Engagement

### Media plan – week ending 15 December 2023

Date (planned)	Item	Description	Targeted media
11 December 2023	Comment or statement	We were approached for a written interview with Ben Whitehouse, Chief Workplace & Sustainability Officer, for an editorial discussing sustainability leadership.	Green Network Asia
11 December 2023	Comment or statement	Responsive statements prepared relating to procurement of Aeronautical Information Services, as this process has been made public and consultation will be undertaken from late January-February.	n/a

## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)

**Media mentions – week ending 8 December 2023**

Date	Activity	Channel
30 November 2023	Queenstown flights forced to circle after drone spotted A unauthorised drone was reported at Queenstown Airport on 28 November; Airways has reported it to CAA along with the safety precautions taken.	Crux
30 November 2023	Queens Park trees to get chop to keep airport safe An article about tree removal in the flight path of Invercargill Airport; all certified airports were required to survey the areas around the aerodrome and note the presence and height of terrain, obstacles, structures, hazards and trees.	Otago Daily Times
5 December 2023	World-first trial of uncrewed aircraft over Banks Peninsula Coverage of the Airspace Integration Trial Programme flight trials conducted by Wisk Aero at Tawhaki.	Otago Daily Times

**Upcoming communications and engagement**

Planned release/publish	What	Type	Why
December 2023	Know Your Neighbour	Other	Audio story supplementing Summer Vector, to educate users of unattended aerodromes
December 2023	Vector Summer Issue	Aviation industry magazine	A way of getting relevant safety information to industry in an easy-to-read format
December 2023 – January 2024	All stories from Vector special issue	Vector Online article(s)	Ongoing education by putting some Vector articles online for anyone to access
March 2024	Vector Autumn Issue	Aviation industry magazine	A way of getting relevant safety information to industry in an easy-to-read format
Throughout 2024	Occurrence Investigation Workshop	Face-to-face event	To provide training for operators about investigating occurrences, to comply with requirements under CAR Part 12



## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)

Planned release/publish	What	Type	Why
TBC	In, Out and Around Queenstown	GAP booklet (update)	BAU version update
TBC	In, Out and Around Christchurch	GAP booklet (update)	BAU version update
TBC	Weather Card	Safety education product	BAU version update

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## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)

**New inquiries / International Assistance**

A new aviation inquiry, A0-2023-012 was opened by the Commission on 27 November 2023.

The United Kingdom Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) notified the Commission of an accident that occurred at about 1407 on the 22/08/23 (UTC) near Enstone, Oxfordshire, involving a Spitfire MK 26B. The circumstances reported are that the Spitfire, registered G-CLHJ, struck the ground during a test flight. The aircraft was destroyed, and the pilot did not survive the accident.

The Chief Investigator of Accidents has opened an inquiry under Section 8(2)(e) of the TAIC Act to support the AAIB investigation and appointed Ian McClelland as Investigator in Charge.

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7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOE)



No update this week.

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## Directory

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# Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport

For the week ending 15 December 2023

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## 1 Actions from transport officials' meeting

Meeting with the Ministry of Transport (the Ministry) – 11 December 2023	Due date
<b>Speed</b> Officials to prepare advice on timeframes and process for broader rule change.	Wednesday 20 December 2023.
<b>Electronic Road User Charging (RUC)</b> Officials to provide advice on opportunities to facilitate transition to electronic RUC, including any opportunities available through the initial EV transition.	Indicative timeframe provided. Further advice will be provided on Wednesday 20 December 2023.
<b>Board appointments</b> Officials to provide advice on timeframes and process for confirming Board appointments.	Wednesday 20 December 2023.
<b>Waitematā Harbour Crossing</b> Officials to provide draft letter for New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Board to outline Ministerial expectations.	Draft letter provided on 15 December 2023.
<b>Climate Change Commission advice – talking points</b> Officials to provide talking points to support any communications following the release of the Commission's report.	Complete - Wednesday 12 December 2023.

Officials Meeting date	Action	Due date	Progress update
8 December 2023	<b>Potholes and the impacts of regulation</b> Officials to provide a briefing on the impact of regulations on the efficiency of potholes being filled.	Week commencing 29 January 2023.	Project scope and approach now established by NZTA and work underway.

## 2 Updates on 100-Day Plan

### 100 Day Plan updates

#### Confirming investment priorities for GPS24

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

*Responsibility: Paul O'Connell, DCE Sector Strategy*

#### Cancel Auckland Light Rail

After receiving feedback from your Office, we updated the draft Cabinet paper and it was lodged for Cabinet consideration on Monday 18 December 2023.

We are continuing to prepare the briefing that will recommend the shareholder actions that you and the other shareholding Ministers in Auckland Light Rail Ltd need to take to cancel the project. We plan to have this with you on 18 December 2023 so it can be actioned quickly following Cabinet's consideration.

*Responsibility: David Wood, DCE, Investment & Monitoring Group*

#### Withdraw from Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM)

On Wednesday 13 December 2023, you met with the Wellington Mayor and Chair of Greater Wellington to discuss next steps with LGWM and mutually agreed that the programme will be disestablished. Next steps following that meeting are currently being finalised.

*Responsibility: Siobhan Routledge, Acting DCE, Policy Group*

#### Removing the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

*Responsibility: David Wood, DCE Investment & Monitoring Group*

#### Resetting approach to speed limits

The Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits Amendment 2023 came into force on Friday 15 December 2023.

We intend to meet with the Automobile Association (AA) in the week commencing 18 December 2023 and will also seek a meeting with Transporting New Zealand to understand its views on the Rule and speed management from a freight perspective.

We met with NZTA and have drafted a Terms of Reference to scope the broader review of the Rule and will provide this along with a cover briefing to you for your summer reading bag.

*Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE, Regulatory Group*



## 100 Day Plan updates

### Removing the Clean Car Discount by 31 December 2023

Following the introduction and passage of the Land Transport (Clean Vehicle Discount Scheme Repeal) Amendment Bill through the House, the remaining policy step is to amend the Ministerial Direction and Funding Deed. To progress this, on Friday 15 December 2023, we provided you with a briefing seeking your approval of a:

- Ministerial Direction to NZTA to end its administration of the Clean Car Discount.
- Supplementary Funding Deed, to be co-signed with the Minister of Finance, enabling NZTA to:
  - end the payment of rebates by 31 January 2024
  - cover its administrative costs in discontinuing the scheme
  - return unspent scheme revenue to the Crown

*Responsibility: Siobhan Routledge, Acting DCE, Policy Group*

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3 UPCOMING BRIEFINGS

### 3 Upcoming briefings

We are working with your Office to provide a prioritised list of briefings for your summer bag.

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## 4 Key updates

Minister Brown	
<b>Environmental Law Initiative v Director-General of the Department of Conservation – [Legally Privileged]</b>	
<p>s 9(2)(h)</p> 	<p><b>Next steps:</b></p> <p>We will keep you informed of progress of this case through the Weekly Report.</p>
<p><i>Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE, Regulatory Group</i></p>	

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## 5 Cabinet papers

Committees	
<b>Cabinet</b>	
18 December 2023	<p><b>Cancelling the Auckland Light Rail Project</b></p> <p>The paper seeks Cabinet endorsement of the preferred approach to cancel the Auckland Light Rail Project.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE, Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>
	<p><b>Transitioning light electric vehicles to RUC</b></p> <p>This paper seeks Cabinet's approval for urgent legislative changes to ensure the appropriate settings are in place when the light EV RUC exemption expires on 31 March 2024.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: David Wood, DCE, Investment &amp; Monitoring Group</i></p>
<b>Executive Council</b>	
18 December 2023	None this week.
<b>100-Day Committee</b>	
20 December 2023	None this week.
<b>Cabinet Business Committee (CBC)</b>	
20 December 2023	None this week.

## 6 Cabinet papers led by other agencies

Title	Lead agency	Minister and Committee	Estimated timing to Cabinet Committee
CAB-372 Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Repeal Bill	Ministry for the Environment	Minister Responsible for Resource Management Act (RMA) Reform	18 December 2023
<b>Comment</b>			
Ministry for the Environment have prepared a Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG) paper for Cabinet seeking approval to introduce the Repeal Bill in relation to the Natural and Built Environment Act and the Spatial Planning Act. The LEG paper includes the expected detail in relation to the Repeal Bill, with the Bill aligning with policy decisions agreed to by Cabinet.  <i>Responsibility: Siobhan Routledge, Acting DCE, Policy Group</i>			<b>Next steps:</b> Following consideration by Cabinet we anticipate the Bill to be introduced in the House on Tuesday 19 December 2023.

## 7 Updates from Transport Crown entities and SOEs



### 100 Day action plan progress

TITLE	UPDATE
<p><b>Withdrawing from Let's Get Wellington Moving</b></p>	<p>NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) is moving forward with planning for the withdrawal from the Let's Get Wellington Moving Programme with a specific focus on enabling progress on the second Mt Victoria Tunnel and Basin Reserve upgrade.</p> <p>We are awaiting your formal direction on how to proceed following discussions with the Mayor of Wellington City and Chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council. As previously referenced, the full wind-down of the Programme will continue in quarter one of 2024.</p>
<p><b>Meet with councils and communities to establish regional requirements for recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle and other recent major flooding events</b></p>	<p><b>State Highway 1 Brynderwyn Hills</b></p> <p>We completed stakeholder and community engagement on when and how to close the road for required repairs. We've had strong engagement. A summary of feedback from participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support was generally evenly split between the proposed closure timings of before and after the Easter weekend</li> <li>• Many commented on how the closure could affect the community and businesses, and mitigations with signage and the detour routes.</li> </ul> <p>Feedback will be shared with the Steering Group of Northland leaders, who will help to inform NZTA's decision on when and how to close the road for the repairs.</p> <p><b>Friday 8 December 2023 visit to Wairoa</b></p> <p>NZTA provided information to support your visit, alongside the Prime Minister, with Hawke's Bay councils in the morning before heading to Wairoa in the afternoon.</p> <p><b>15 December – State Highway 25A Taparahi and 16 December – Hawke's Bay and Gisborne</b></p> <p>NZTA has provided information to support your visits.</p> <p><i>(Continued next page)</i></p>

## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES

TITLE	UPDATE
	<p><b>Marlborough Sounds</b></p> <p>On Tuesday 12 December 2023, the NZTA Board endorsed the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Programme Business Case. The Programme Business Case addresses damage suffered in four high intensity rain events during 2021 and 2022 and provides a long-term sustainable solution for access to the Marlborough Sounds (including some lowering of Levels of Service and proposals for not reinstating access to some roads in future events).</p>
<p><b>Repeal the Clean Car Discount scheme by 31 December 2023</b></p>	<p>Work to end the charging of fees and filing of rebate applications by 31 December 2023 remains on track.</p> <p>The legislation was introduced into the house on Tuesday 12 December 2023. We understand you expect to provide an announcement of the legislation details that will enable NZTA to communicate with industry and the public including website updates. We expect these communications will attract strong media and industry interest.</p> <p>Our system changes for 31 December 2023 are ready. These are data configuration changes only. Further work will be needed in the new year as the current work is focussed on immediate needs only.</p> <p>Our impacted staff have been informed of the change detail. While planning work is underway, formal HR processes and organisational redesign will commence in February 2024. We still require the staff to process all rebate applications by 31 January 2024. This is a key risk NZTA will need to manage.</p> <p>Our role is to support you and the Ministry of Transport (the Ministry) in the progression and passing of primary and secondary legislation, as well as the Funding Deed and the Ministerial Direction. We understand the Ministry is planning to have drafts of the latter two documents with you by Friday 15 December 2023.</p>

## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES

## Key updates

TITLE	UPDATE
<b>Upcoming engagement with Regional Transport Committees</b>	<p>An update on upcoming Regional Transport Committee meetings has been provided in Appendix 1.</p>
<b>Driver Licensing Improvement Programme</b>	<p>The Driver Licensing Improvement Programme (DLIP) is a cross-agency initiative led by NZTA, established in June 2022.</p> <p>The objectives of the programme are to design and deliver targeted change in the driver licensing system with a focus on safety, equity and access, and delivering improved social and economic outcomes for people living in New Zealand - keeping people out of the criminal justice system, off the unemployment line, driving safely on NZ's roads, and participating in their communities.</p> <p>The programme supports people in moving through the graduated driver licensing system by delivering improved and expanded education, training and testing, and modernised processes, systems and standards, tailored to some of our most vulnerable communities, which removes some of the barriers that otherwise exist.</p> <p>The main agencies collaborating on this programme are NZTA, Ministry of Social Development (MSD), Ministry of Transport, NZ Police, Ministry for Māori Development and ACC. There is also good support from other agencies and organisations, including Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, the Driving Change Network, the Office of Rural Communities and many other community organisations and work programmes (e.g., Kānoa Sector Workforce Engagement Programme and Skills and Employment).</p> <p>Minister Upston has requested an overview of MSD's contribution to the cross-agency initiative, ahead of discussions regarding future funding as part of Budget 2024. MSD's report provides information on the evidence informing the programme's implementation, work done to date, opportunities to expand its reach, and an update on the in-development Detailed Business Case that would underpin a Budget 2024 bid for further funding for the programme should a bid be invited. The MSD briefing is due to Minister Upston this Friday 15 December 2023, and includes a recommendation for it to be forwarded to you.</p> <p>We would appreciate the opportunity to brief you in more detail on the programme's benefits and future costs in the new year.</p>
<b>Construction to start on State Highway 1 Levin to Foxton safety improvements</b>	<p>Construction is scheduled to start on the State Highway 1 Levin to Foxton safety improvements on 9 January 2024.</p> <p><i>(Continued next page)</i></p>



7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES

TITLE	UPDATE
	<p>When the Ōtaki to north of Levin highway is open, drivers will travel from Wellington to north of Levin on four-lane, median separated highways and join on onto the existing State Highway 1 in this area. These safety improvements are needed to ensure people safely transition from the expressway driving environment to the traditional two-lane section of state highway.</p> <p>Between 2018 and 2022 there were 122 reported crashes on this stretch of road which resulted in 5 people dying and 20 being seriously injured. It is a notoriously dangerous stretch of state highway.</p> <p>The safety improvements are being constructed in stages. Safety improvements north of the Manawatū River bridge will be constructed first, followed by safety improvements south of the bridge.</p> <p>Downer has been awarded the contract for stage one, which will see safety improvements made between Foxton and the Manawatū River bridge. These include a turnaround at the southern entrance to Foxton for people heading south, painted wide centrelines, and a flexible median barrier up to the existing median barrier at the Manawatū River bridge.</p> <p>Stakeholders, residents, and the wider public will be notified prior to Christmas 2023 of the new year construction start for stage one. Community engagement on the safety improvements began in 2020, with engagement on the final proposed design in mid-2023.</p>
<p><b>Speed review decision - Northland-north Auckland Speed Reviews</b></p>	<p>The Director of Land Transport approved the Northland-north Auckland speed limit changes on Monday 11 December 2023. s 9(2)(g)(i)</p> <p>We will share our plans for engaging with the community and stakeholders with you early next year prior to implementation.</p> <p>The speed limit changes include 16 townships, 34 kura/schools and eight marae across Northland and north Auckland. There is one open road section 4.7 km long on State Highway 1 between Kaitaia and Awanui - the local community and council are supportive of (and anticipating) the change.</p>

## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES

## Media updates

TITLE	UPDATE
<b>Holiday journeys and safe driving tips</b>	Regionally targeted media statements will be released during the week beginning Monday 18 December 2023, providing information on the likely congestion hotspots, safe-driving tips and general safety messages.
<b>State Highway 1 Brynderwyn Hills closure dates</b>	A media statement is planned for release on Monday 18 December 2023 to confirm the dates that the road will be closed for urgent repair works for next year. This follows public feedback as well as input from stakeholders and a steering group comprising of freight and tourism groups. It will also confirm that work is already underway on ensuring the detour routes are as high quality as possible.
<b>State Highway 25A re-opening</b>	A media release will be issued on Wednesday 20 December 2023 announcing the opening of State Highway 25A in the Coromandel to traffic.
<b>Safety platforms, Hamilton</b>	A media statement may be released during the week beginning Monday 18 December 2023 announcing the construction of Raised Safety Platforms (RSPs) at the roundabout at Lincoln Street, Norton Road, Rifle Range Road and Mangaharakeke Drive on State Highway 1C in Hamilton.
<b>Karangahake Gorge</b>	A media statement will be released during the week beginning Monday 18 December 2023 announcing the closure of passing lanes and reduced speed limit on State Highway 2 in the Karangahake Gorge over the busy Christmas travel period to help traffic flow.
<b>Transport Rebuild East Coast (TREC) maintenance</b>	A media release is planned on behalf of the TREC alliance, covering both Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti, with an overview of a summer of maintenance activity in the regions.
<b>Mt Messenger support for Mokau Museum</b>	A media statement is planned for release during the week beginning Monday 18 December 2023 highlighting the re-opening of the Mokau Museum north of New Plymouth, with a new 3D exhibit of the Mt Messenger project site and the new route.
<b>WTOC media site visit</b>	RNZ, Stuff, NZME, 1News and Newshub have been invited to visit the Wellington Traffic Operations Centre (WTOC) operation in Johnsonville to see how we manage the network, particularly at peak holiday times. NZTA staff will be attending and available for media interviews. Up to date road safety statistics for the Peka Peka to Otaki expressway will also be presented to attending media.
<b>State Highway 6 Dellows Bluff completion</b>	A media statement will be released during the week beginning Monday 18 December 2023 summarising the completion of rockfall and underslip works that have been ongoing at this site south of Murchison for approximately two years.

## Appendix 1

### Upcoming engagement with Regional Transport Committees (RTC)

RTC	Next meeting	Known agenda items
Bay of Plenty	15 December 2023	<p>Projects to be discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The upcoming summer maintenance and renewal program – 250 lane km of work is planned across the region</li> <li>Ongoing resilience works SH2 and SH35</li> <li>Proposed safety camera trial sites in the Bay of Plenty</li> <li>Interim State Highway Speed Management Plan update</li> <li>Key infrastructure delivery updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SH2 Takitimu North Link</li> <li>Baypark to Bayfair Link (SH2 / SH29a)</li> <li>Rotorua Eastern Corridor (SH30 / 33)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Key system design updates (Transport Planning): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connecting Mount Maunganui (SH2/Hewletts Road)</li> <li>Tauriko Connections (SH29).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Waikato	12 December 2023	<p>Projects discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upcoming summer maintenance and renewal programme – 500 lane km of work planned</li> <li>Ongoing resilience works including recovery works on SH25/A</li> <li>Upcoming opening of the SH25A bridge</li> <li>Proposed safety camera trial sites in the Waikato</li> <li>Progress with implementing the Hamilton Metro Spatial Plan</li> <li>SH1/29 intersection (roundabout) construction starting Jan 2024.</li> </ul>
Northland	13 February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SH1 Brynderwyn Hills</li> <li>SH1 Mangamuka Gorge</li> <li>Maintenance, Operations and Renewals will be discussed in detail with high level updates provided on immediate recovery works</li> <li>SH10 Kaeo Bridge upgrade</li> <li>SH1 Loop Road Improvements</li> <li>Whangarei to Wellsford safety improvements</li> <li>Driver Licensing</li> <li>Northland community-requested speed reviews.</li> </ul>

## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES

RTC	Next meeting	Known agenda items
Auckland Transport	27 February 2024	No agenda items have been set.
West Coast	24 January 2024	The agenda may include all future projects as the Regional Land transport Plan (RLTP) is being refreshed.
Canterbury	End March 2024 (TBC)	The agenda may include all future projects as the RLTP is being refreshed.
Otago and Southland	2 February 2024	The agenda may include all future projects as the RLTP is being refreshed.
Hawke's Bay	2 February 2024*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on RLTP significant related activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SH5 Napier to Hastings corridor improvements</li> <li>• Maraekakaho Road/York Road roundabout</li> <li>• Strengthening of Hastings' bridges</li> <li>• SH51 Napier to Hastings safety improvements</li> <li>• Mahia connectivity</li> <li>• SH38 tall oil pitch</li> <li>• SH2 Napier to Wairoa.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Updates on other Hawke's Bay projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SH2 Waikare Gorge realignment</li> <li>• SH50 Prebensen Hyderabad intersection upgrades</li> <li>• Connecting Tairāwhiti programme (passing opportunities at SH2 Mohaka and Kakariki)</li> <li>• Low-cost/low-risk work</li> <li>• Future Speed and Infrastructure Programme (SIP) work not already covered under RLTP significant related activities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cyclone recovery sites and any emergency works update.</li> <li>• Summer maintenance and operations programme update.</li> <li>• Hawke's Bay Resilience Strategic Response business case work update.</li> </ul>
Manawatu / Whanganui	29 January 2024* (to adopt RLTP) and 5 March 2024*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on RLTP significant related activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palmerston North Integrated Transport Initiative</li> <li>• Local road upgrades related to Ōtaki to north of Levin (Ō2NL)</li> <li>• Intersection upgrades on SH1 and SH57</li> <li>• Capital Connection passenger rail service</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES

RTC	Next meeting	Known agenda items
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashhurst shared user path</li> <li>• SH54 Kairanga-Bunnythorpe Road intersection improvements</li> <li>• SH3 Napier Road and Te Matai Road intersection improvements.</li> <li>• Updates on other Manawatū - Whanganui projects:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway</li> <li>• Ō2NL new highway and safety improvements</li> <li>• SH1/3 Bulls to Sanson safety improvements and new Commercial Vehicle Safety Centre</li> <li>• Whanganui to Bulls safety improvements</li> <li>• SH4 Whanganui to Raetihi flood damage repairs and Te Oreore slip site</li> <li>• SH1 Utiku landslip</li> <li>• SH43 Forgotten World Highway improvements</li> <li>• Future SIP work not already covered under RLTP significant related activities</li> <li>• Low-cost/low-risk work.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Summer maintenance and operations programme update.</li> </ul>
Taranaki	8 February 2024*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on RLTP significant related activities:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SH3 Te Ara Tūtohu: Waitara to Bell Block improvements</li> <li>• Airport Drive improvements</li> <li>• SH3/3A New Plymouth to Hawera</li> <li>• Integrated Transport Network</li> <li>• Coastal pathway extension to Waitara</li> <li>• SH3 Cumberland/Coronation intersection signalisation</li> <li>• SH3 Egmont Road intersection improvements</li> <li>• SH3 Te Ara o Te Ara: Mt Messenger bypass.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Updates on other Taranaki projects:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SH43 Forgotten World Highway improvements</li> <li>• SH4 Whanganui to Raetihi flood damage repairs and Te Oreore slip site</li> <li>• Future SIP work not covered under RLTP significant related activities</li> <li>• Low-cost/low-risk work.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES

RTC	Next meeting	Known agenda items
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency works update.</li> <li>Summer maintenance and operations programme update.</li> </ul>
Gisborne	14 February 2024 (to be confirmed)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates on RLTP significant related activities:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taruheru River walking and cycling shared path</li> <li>SH2 Waioeka Gorge resilience business case</li> <li>50 max bridge upgrades.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Updates on other Gisborne projects:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connecting Tairāwhiti programme (passing opportunities SH2/35 and resilience SH35)</li> <li>Low-cost/low-risk work</li> <li>SH35 Mangahauini slip site.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Cyclone recovery sites and any emergency works update.</li> <li>Summer maintenance and operations programme update.</li> <li>Tairāwhiti   Wairoa Resilience Strategic Response business case work update.</li> </ul>
Greater Wellington	8 February 2024	Agenda to be finalised. Will have a focus on RLTPs in the first quarter of 2024.
Marlborough	None scheduled	<p>Agenda to be finalised. Will have a focus on RLTPs in the first quarter of 2024.</p> <p>The full Council meeting on Friday 15 December 2023 is likely to focus on the next steps for the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Plan.</p>
Nelson-Tasman	February 2024	<p>Agenda to be finalised. Will have a focus on RLTPs in the first quarter of 2024.</p> <p>Three meetings for hearings and deliberations on their speed management plan in February and March 2024 (now out for public consultation). These meetings will likely be reconsidered following the recent announcement on changes to the Rule.</p>

\* National topics to be confirmed. Updates on the State Highway Investment Proposal likely if a draft GPS is available to guide development.



### **New Zealand Council of Cargo Owners (NZCCO)**

We understand that you recently met with representatives of the New Zealand Council of Cargo Owners (NZCCO) and asked the Ministry for information on how officials (including Maritime NZ) engage with them. The Ministry will brief you separately on their engagement through the Freight and Supply Chain Strategy process.

Maritime NZ has a productive working relationship with the NZCCO. Engagement is focused on specific matters of interest. In addition, Charles Finny, the convenor of the Port Chief Executive roundtable, represents their interests at a monthly meeting we convene with members of the wider maritime sector (the Maritime Industry Forum). We have agreed with NZCCO that we will connect in the new year to identify whether there are areas that require more direct connection.

In engagement with NZCCO, we understand their priority concerns currently are emissions policy, green shipping corridors and port productivity. This reflects their 'manifesto', shared with you.

We understand that the Ministry's briefing will address many of their priorities. One additional matter that NZCCO and Port CEs have raised in relation to their priorities is the need for New Zealand to have a permanent presence in London focused on the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The most influential states at the IMO have permanent representatives in London who regularly meet and work with the secretariat to progress work. Such a position could enhance New Zealand and the Pacific's interests. We are happy to brief you further on this matter if you wish.

### **Fatal accident near Waiheke Island**

On Thursday 7 December 2023 at about 1pm, two people (one adult female and one adult male) departed Maraetai Beach in a modified Parker Craft dinghy intending to go fishing in the channel. At about 3.30pm, while at anchor and fishing, the vessel started to take on water and sink and both parties entered the water. The female was wearing a life jacket, while the male had chosen not to wear his life jacket but was able to hang on to it when the vessel sunk under them.

The vessel was submerged and remained in place at anchor. The couple decided to swim to shore in conditions that were described as difficult. After about 3 hours of swimming the male likely drowned and the female survivor was recovered later that evening in her life jacket. <sup>s 6(c)</sup>

## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES

**Sentencing of Sealord after crew exposed to asbestos**

Seafood company Sealord pleaded guilty and has been fined \$257,250 in the Nelson District Court and ordered to pay \$3000 emotional harm reparation to two crew members, following an investigation and prosecution by Maritime NZ.

The company was also ordered to pay legal costs of almost \$30,000 on a charge that carried a maximum fine of \$1.5 million. Judge Zohrab also asked that Sealord communicate the lessons it had learned through this to the Fishing Health and Safety Forum and communicate this to Maritime NZ once it has done so.

Sealord was sentenced for failing in its duty of care, by allowing its workers to be exposed to asbestos while working on-board the fishing vessel *Will Watch* in 2021. At the time the exposed asbestos was reported, the vessel was operating out of Mauritius and New Zealand-based Sealord employees were being seconded to work on it. While crew were seconded from Sealord, they were subject to the terms and conditions of their New Zealand employment agreement.

Sealord initially argued that there was no case to answer as the vessel was not owned by the company and therefore considered it was excluded from the Health and Safety at Work Act, but subsequently changed their plea to guilty.

**Maritime NZ in the media**

The focus of media over the past week has been around recreational craft activities leading into summer and rescues coordinated out of Maritime NZ's Rescue Coordination Centre.

*The Wairarapa Times Age* requested information about recreational craft activities in the area for summer and what the risks were. We decided it best to direct the reporter to Greater Wellington as the authority with harbourmaster responsibilities for the region. However, we took this opportunity to promote the speed rules for users of the Ruamahanga River. Earlier this year new signage went up along the river to help users better understand the speed rules for the river.

Late last week, two climbers were airlifted from Malte-Burn in Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park. The climbers got themselves into difficulty and the DoC Mt Cook Alpine Cliff Rescue Team were helicoptered in to their location to help get them to safety. We also took this as an opportunity to promote safety messaging encouraging people to carry beacons, understand the conditions and think how to prepare for outdoor trips.

The sentencing of Sealord, outlined above, has also been reported in the media.





**Aviation Security Service**  
Kaiwhakamaru Rererangi

## Communications and External Engagement 12 December 2023

### Media plan – 7 days from Wednesday 13 December 2023

Date (planned)	Item	Description	Targeted media
14 December 2023	General release	Summer travel messages to help passenger prepare for security screening	Major print / online publications

### Media mentions – 7 days to Tuesday 12 December 2023

Date	Activity	Channel
5 December 2023	The Panel AvSec is mentioned in a radio interview about troubles at Auckland Airport.	Radio NZ
6 December 2023	Helicopters on the down low to survey Taranaki power poles A brief CAA mention in a story about helicopters surveying power poles in Taranaki.	Stratford Press Taranaki
6 December 2023	Ombudsman report finds Civil Aviation Authority's decision-making on New Zealand Sign Language in airline safety briefing videos unreasonable Extensive media coverage of Ombudsman's decision. Response statement and apology letter to Deaf NZ provided.	Various
9 December 2023	Karamea helicopter crash: Pilot rejects finding that Robinson broke up mid-air due to error. CAA is mentioned in articles about TAIC's investigation of a helicopter accident in Karamea in January 2023, which found that the "it was very likely the pilot was flying the Robinson R22 outside approved rotor speed limitations" causing the helicopter to break up.	RNZ, Otago Daily Times

## 7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES

## Upcoming education

Planned release/publication	What	Type	Why
December 2023	Vector Summer Issue	Aviation industry magazine	A way of getting relevant safety information to industry in an easy-to-read format
February 2024	Secure Your Aircraft	GAP booklet (update)	BAU version update
March 2024	Vector Autumn Issue	Aviation industry magazine	A way of getting relevant safety information to industry in an easy-to-read format
TBC	In, Out and Around Manawatu	GAP booklet (update)	BAU version update
TBC	In, Out and Around Queenstown	GAP booklet (update)	BAU version update
Throughout 2024	Occurrence Investigation Workshop	Face-to-face event	To provide training for operators about investigating occurrences, to comply with requirements under CAR Part 12



No update this week.

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7 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES



No update this week.

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## Directory

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# Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport

For the week ending 22 December 2023

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY  
TE MANATŪ WAKA MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

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## 1 Updates on 100-Day Plan

### 100 Day Plan updates

#### Confirming investment priorities for GPS24

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

*Responsibility: Paul O'Connell, DCE, Sector Strategy*

#### Cancel Auckland Light Rail

On Monday 18 December 2023, Cabinet met to confirm your proposed approach to cancelling the project [CAB-23-MIN-0496 refers]. We provided a briefing for shareholding Ministers seeking agreement to the subsequent actions needed to give effect to Cabinet's decision.

Over January 2024, Auckland Light Rail Ltd's wind-up process will begin. In early January, the new, smaller Board will meet to formally start the wind-up process.

In January 2024, the Ministry will also be starting a due diligence process on the company's contracts, obligations and liabilities to give us a comprehensive view of ALR Ltd's position.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

*Responsibility: David Wood, DCE, Investment & Monitoring Group*

#### Withdraw from Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM)

You recently announced (alongside Hon Bishop and the Mayor and Chair of Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council) that LGWM was going to be ended by mutual agreement. On Monday 18 December 2023, the Ministry provided you with draft letters to the councils and the acting Chair of NZTA to recap the key areas of agreement and ask for an outline of next steps involved in implementing the programme's disestablishment.

*Responsibility: Siobhan Routledge, Acting DCE, Policy Group*

#### Removing the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

*Responsibility: David Wood, DCE, Investment & Monitoring Group*

#### Resetting approach to speed limits

The Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits Amendment 2023 came into force on Friday 15 December 2023. The Ministry met with Transporting New Zealand and the National Road Carriers Association to understand their respective views on the speed management system and what they would like to see the new rule deliver from a freight perspective. We also had further meetings with the Automobile Association and NZTA.

A Terms of Reference to scope the broader review of the Rule and a cover briefing have been provided for your summer reading bag.

*Responsibility: Bronwyn Turley, DCE, Regulatory Group*



## 2 RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING LIST

## 2 Recommended summer reading list

This is a list of Minsitry papers only. A contents page listing papers from all agencies will be included with the pack.

Proposed briefing name	Synopsis	Reason for provision	Deadline for Minister
<b>Draft GPS 2024</b>	s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
<b>Metropolitan Rail Operating Model Review</b>	Briefing on the Metropolitan Rail Operating Model Review, seeking your endorsement of the Terms of Reference.	Long standing set of issues that needs to be addressed. Stakeholders are keen to start this work as quickly as possible.	Friday 20 January 2024.
<b>KiwiRail and the National Rail System</b>	Briefing to provide context about the rail system and current and future decisions required.	To provide key background information to support Ministerial decision making over the next few months, including Budget 2025.	Friday 20 January 2024.
<b>History of Auckland Light Rail Project</b>	Briefing covering the background of the project, including the Crown's role and involvement.	As requested.	FYI.
<b>Budget 2024: Developing a Vote Transport Budget package and baseline savings proposal</b>	s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
<b>Freight and Supply Chain</b>	This briefing covers the Port of Tauranga's consent application to extend its terminal, green shipping corridors, the extent of engagement between the Ministry and the sector and other matters relating to freight and supply chain.	As requested.	Monday 29 January 2024

Note: the reference to 'Budget 2025' under the 'KiwiRail and the National Rail System' item should read 'Budget 2024'.

## 2 RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING LIST

Proposed briefing name	Synopsis	Reason for provision	Deadline for Minister
<b>Setting of Speed Limits Rule Review – Terms of Reference</b>	Provides an overview of the scope for the rule that will replace the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2022. The Ministry has provided a draft Terms of Reference agreed with NZTA.	100-day plan.	Friday 19 January 2024.
<b>Emergency management</b>	This briefing provides an overview of the Ministry's role in emergency management across the transport sector and other systems.	The frequency of weather-related events that impact the transport sector are increasing in frequency. This paper details how the Ministry will support you and the National Security System in an emergency event.	FYI.
<b>Approval of Proposed Increases to the Maritime and Oil Pollution Levies</b>	This paper seeks Cabinet's approval of changes to the Maritime and Oil Pollution Levies from 1 July 2024.	This will require going to Cabinet as soon as possible in the new year.	Friday 12 January 2024.
<b>The Climate Change Commission's Advice on the Policy Direction of the Second Emissions Reduction Plan</b>	This briefing provides information and advice regarding the Climate Change Commission's recommendations relevant for the transport sector and seeks early signals about your preferred approach to reducing emissions from transport.	The Commission's advice must be considered by the Government as it develops the second emissions reduction plan, which is due to be released by 31 December 2024.	Monday 22 January 2024.
<b>Land Transport Revenue System</b>	This briefing provides an overview of the land transport revenue system.	This paper provides an overview of how the system works and key decisions that can be made.	Tuesday 23 January 2024.
<b>Accelerating the Transition to Road User Charges</b>	This briefing will provide information and options to replace fuel excise duty (FED) to electronic road user charges (RUC).	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	

### 3 Updates from transport Crown entities and SOEs



#### 100 Day action plan progress

TITLE	UPDATE
s 9(2)(j)	
<p><b>Meet with councils and communities to establish regional requirements for recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle and other recent major flooding events</b></p>	<p><b>State Highway 1 Brynderwyn Hills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working together with the community and accounting for the urgency of the works and the views of the Northland Inc. established working group, NZTA has decided to close the road for recovery works from 26 February 2024.</li> <li>The road will be opened for six days over the Easter holiday period (from 28 March to 2 April 2024). It will then close on 3 April 2024 to complete the remaining work.</li> <li>The closure is expected to be about nine weeks in total.</li> <li>Closure dates are subject to securing the necessary environmental approvals to support enabling works beginning 15 January 2024, and fine weather to carry out the works. The Department of Conservation is prioritising the approvals in the short timeframe available before Christmas.</li> <li>The closure dates were announced on 19 December 2023, with advanced warning provided to your office.</li> </ul> <p><b>State Highway 25A Taparahi, and Hawke’s Bay/Gisborne</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your visits over 15 to 16 December 2024 to State Highway 25A and with East Coast councils to hear directly from them about the recovery and rebuild were well received.</li> </ul>

## 3 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES

TITLE	UPDATE
<b>Repeal the Clean Car Discount scheme (the Scheme) by 31 December 2023</b>	<p>We are on track to complete the necessary rebates by 31 January 2024. System changes have been tested and are ready to be activated from midnight on the morning of 1 January 2024.</p> <p>We have been given permission to provide details of the Scheme's closure to key industry stakeholders. Our industry and public facing websites and applications have been updated to report the announced closure. These sites will be updated again on 1 January 2024 once the Scheme is closed to the public.</p> <p>With applications closing on 31 December 2023, we expect the need to process 2 months of applications within this time period. Modelling suggest rebates will peak at 12 100. Daily rebate applications have increased by approximately 50 percent since details were released (2,150 from 14 to 17 December 2023). There are 3,000 applications presently undergoing processing.</p> <p>We are also expecting some pressure on importers and dealers seeking rebates on current eligible stock.</p>

## Key updates

TITLE	UPDATE
<b>State Highway 6, Bells/St Leonards Road roundabout project (Marlborough)</b>	<p>This project will improve efficient and safe travel between Blenheim and Woodbourne Airport on a key tourism and freight route for the region.</p> <p>From 2015 to 2019, there have been 14 crashes (two serious) on State Highway 6 (SH6), the major commuting and freight route between Woodbourne and Springlands in Blenheim. Most of these crashes occurred at intersections which the project will focus on for safety improvements.</p> <p>The project currently includes two roundabouts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Leonards Road and Bells Road intersection – construction 16 January to 24 May 2024 in four stages, with one-direction road closure on SH6 and closures to local roads. Impacted businesses and residents were informed about the closures and detours on 18 December 2023 and the wider community on 20 December 2023.</li> <li>• Construction for the Tancred Crescent and SH6 intersection (access to the Marlborough Airport) will be confirmed in early 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>Te Ara Tupua – Enhanced Offshore Reef (Wellington)</b>	<p>Te Ara Tupua, the walking, cycling and resilience project between Ngauranga and Petone, has resource consent conditions which require mitigation of the environmental impact of reclamation into Wellington Harbour. The consent conditions require delivering one of two alternative initiatives to improve habitat and water quality.</p>

## 3 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES

TITLE	UPDATE
	<p><i>(Continued)</i></p> <p>One alternative is the installation of stormwater treatment for runoff from an area of SH2. However, the estimated cost of the stormwater treatment exceeded \$25 million and provided limited water quality benefit to Wellington Harbour as a whole, with ongoing maintenance and operational difficulties and costs.</p> <p>The second alternative is to provide an area of enhanced habitat in Wellington Harbour. Te Ara Tupua Alliance developed alternative approaches including the installation of mussel beds or enhanced reefs. The enhanced offshore reef option is forecast to deliver greater ecological benefits for under \$12 million and has been approved by Greater Wellington Regional Council.</p> <p>54 engineered concrete 'pyramid' units will be submerged off the western edge of Wellington Harbour covering five hectares. Each pyramid unit is 4 metres long by 4 metres wide, 5 metres tall and weighs approximately 22 tonnes.</p> <p>NZTA will announce this initiative in January 2024.</p>

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**3 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES****Maritime NZ services continue during holidays**

Maritime NZ's services will continue while our offices are closed to the public from Saturday 23 December 2023 to Sunday 7 January 2024.

The Rescue Coordination Centre NZ (RCCNZ) and the Maritime Radio Service operations rooms, which are located next to each other, are staffed 24/7 every day of the year. Summer is our busiest time – this has already been our busiest year on record and we have rostered staff accordingly. We have logged 1,300 search and rescue (SAR) tasks for 2023 so far (the previous busiest was 2022 with 1,257) and we are likely to get close to 1400 by end of December. Additionally, these numbers do not include the 256 tasks we undertook during the Cyclone Gabrielle response, rescuing 450-600 people.

RCCNZ is responsible for coordinating all major maritime and air SAR missions and all missions arising from someone activating a distress beacon in New Zealand's 30 million square kilometre SAR region, from the South Pole to near the Equator. Maritime NZ is also responsible for providing maritime radio services to 50 million square kilometres of the south west Pacific known as NAVAREA XIV.

Similar to normal after-hours situations, Maritime Officers, Inspectors and Investigators are available to respond to maritime incidents if needed. Urgent licensing matters are still able to be processed, and our operational senior leadership is also available over this period with the main contact being our Deputy Chief Executive, Regulatory Operations.

In case of a major incident, Maritime NZ's duty response team is rostered 24/7 every day of the year. The team includes the Duty Incident Controller and Duty Senior Manager, who have standing delegations of the Director's responsibilities, and a Duty National on Scene Commander with authority under the Maritime Transport Act. The duty team has direct links to the National Response Team, local and central government agencies, other sector organisations and media.

The Recreational Craft Harm Prevention Programme increases activity in December and January when many New Zealanders head out to the water to enjoy the summer. The summer campaign uses radio, print, on-demand television, outdoor and digital media. This summer, it includes a partnership with Radio Hauraki, ad placements with MetService, Stuff, NZ Herald and Trade Me, and targeted ads on Facebook and Instagram to reach our target audience with three key safety messages: always wear a life jacket, take two waterproof forms of communication, and check the marine forecast.

**Maritime NZ in the media**

Maritime NZ will be issuing three media releases this week focusing on recreational craft safety. Summer and the holiday period is a high risk time for recreational craft users, and it is important for those planning to head out on the water to understand their obligations and risks.

On Monday 18 December, we received a request from an Otago Daily Times reporter about a jet boat collision on the Clutha River on 30 December 2022. We are confirming to the reporter this week that charges are going to be laid against a jet boating company and an individual.



**Aviation Security Service**  
*Kaiwhakamaru Rererangi*

## Key updates

### Next steps for Air New Zealand's zero emissions aircraft.

In the Weekly Report from Friday 8 December 2023, we indicated that Authority staff supported Air New Zealand's (Air NZ) recent announcement of the aircraft they had chosen for their zero emissions aircraft programme.

The aircraft is undergoing certification by the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Authority is engaging with the FAA and will shadow the FAA's certification of the aircraft. This will allow the Authority to evaluate the aircraft at the same time as the FAA and will assist in meeting Air NZ's ambitious timeline and help reduce costs to both Air NZ and the Authority.

### Authority Screening Data Update

We are working through how best to provide you with regular updates on screening data and performance. We will put regular updates in place early in the new year.

You are aware of the data that has been published on our website, with the last entry in June 2023. We will update that data shortly. We note that it is limited in its value as it is based on manual sampling of 30 people by location per month, and generally varied and random so we don't just look at quiet and busy times.

We are involved in piloting a Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) remote sensing method to measure queues with Wellington Airport. This will provide accurate and timely data about queue performance. We will brief you more fully on this pilot in late January 2023 and the opportunities it provides for improvement of queue measurement across the system.

s 9(2)(g)(i)

The management of staff and opening of lanes is modelled on a full range of passenger data and screening scenarios, and consulted with relevant parties to ensure adequate resourcing is available during the peak travel season. To meet challenges presented by staff vacancies and the impacts of the COVID-19 'fifth wave', the Authority has engaged 154 Load Assistants on short-term contracts to help manage passenger screening activity, and we have added extra capacity in order to reduce the risk of long queues.



3 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES

(Continued)

The table below shows expected passenger numbers on the busiest travel days at New Zealand’s four busiest airports (left-hand columns show the busiest travel dates and expected passenger numbers, the right-hand column shows the average passenger numbers expected).

AKL INT			AKL DOM			WEL INT			WEL DOM			CHC INT			CHC DOM			ZQN INT			ZQN DOM		
Date	Pax	Average Pax	Date	Pax	Average Pax	Date	Pax	Average Pax	Date	Pax	Average Pax	Date	Pax	Average Pax	Date	Pax	Average Pax	Date	Pax	Average Pax	Date	Pax	Average Pax
17/12/23	21,013	20,388	1/12/23	10,057	9,278	10/12/23	1587	1,371	1/12/23	5,926	4,825	15/12/23	3,345	2,986	1/12/23	5,692	4,733	16/12/23	2,553	2,053	22/12/23	3,313	2,709
23/12/23	21,133		6/12/23	10,280		20/12/23	1535		3/12/23	5,443		16/12/23	3,287		6/12/23	5,258		19/12/23	2,363		23/12/23	3,327	
24/12/23	21,025		10/12/23	10,077		25/12/23	1587		5/12/23	5,755		22/12/23	3,346		7/12/23	5,584		21/12/23	2,363		27/12/23	3,115	
3/01/24	21,106		14/12/23	10,313		27/12/23	1535		6/12/23	5,926		23/12/23	3,465		8/12/23	5,863		23/12/23	2,553		28/12/23	3,281	
7/01/24	21,621		15/12/23	10,530		5/01/24	1535		7/12/23	5,894		29/12/23	3,346		10/12/23	5,242		26/12/23	2,363		29/12/23	3,313	
10/01/24	21,106		21/12/23	10,649		12/01/24	1535		8/12/23	6,439		30/12/23	3,287		19/12/23	5,258		30/12/23	2,553		3/01/24	3,126	
14/01/24	21,621		22/12/23	11,214		19/01/24	1535		10/12/23	5,443		6/01/24	3,287		20/12/23	5,429		2/01/24	2,363		5/01/24	3,655	
17/01/24	21,072		27/12/23	10,281		21/01/24	1535		13/12/23	5,785		13/01/24	3,287		21/12/23	5,584		8/01/24	2,553		7/01/24	3,313	
21/01/24	21,621		29/12/23	10,017		26/01/24	1535		14/12/23	5,568		20/01/24	3,287		22/12/23	5,646		13/01/24	2,363		12/01/24	3,142	
28/01/24	21,319		26/01/24	10,313		28/01/24	1535		15/12/23	5,676		27/01/24	3,287		25/12/23	5,594		20/01/24	2,553		14/01/24	3,142	

Informed by this data (as an example), the Authority expects to operate at its full passenger screening capacity each day during periods where we expect peak passenger volumes. While the Authority resource modelling is for periods when we expect peak passenger volumes there is some, albeit limited, flexibility built into the rostering to address short notice changes to airline schedules. However, that flexibility is constrained ultimately by the total number of staff and lanes available.

We will provide a briefing to you in the second half of January 2024 with more detail about data and performance information that is available, and being developed, and would appreciate the opportunity to engage with you to determine what you would find most useful on a regular basis.

**Communications and External Engagement 18 December 2023**

**Media plan – 7 days from Monday 18 December 2023**

Date (planned)	Item	Description	Targeted media
No date	Comment or statement	Potential need for reactive communications regarding CAA vs. Lister, which was scheduled for fourth call on 19 December but may be adjourned until 2024.	n/a

**Media mentions – 7 days to Monday 18 December 2023**

Date	Activity	Channel
13 December 2023	Purpose of flight mode. This article explains the possibility of mobile devices interfering with flight safety, and draws from information from our website which provides some context	Newstalk ZB
14 December 2023	What you can and can't take on a plane this Christmas. An article resulting from our media release with tips for summer travellers about security screening.	Bestin NZ
16 December 2023	Medical drone in the new year. West Coast DHB plans to use drones to deliver medical supplies and hopes to begin trials in 2024. They have contracted Swoop Aero who have been working through aircraft-specific documentation required by CAA.	Greymouth Star

**Upcoming communications and engagement**

Planned release/publish	What	Type	Why
December 2023	Vector Summer Issue	Aviation industry magazine	A way of getting relevant safety information to industry in an easy-to-read format
February 2024	Secure Your Aircraft	GAP booklet (update)	BAU version update
March 2024	Vector Autumn Issue	Aviation industry magazine	A way of getting relevant safety information to industry in an easy-to-read format
March 2024	In, Out and Around Queenstown	GAP booklet (update)	BAU version update
TBC	In, Out and Around Manawatu	GAP booklet (update)	BAU version update
Throughout 2024	Occurrence Investigation Workshop	Face-to-face event	To provide training for operators about investigating occurrences, to comply with requirements under CAR Part 12

## 3 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES

**New inquiries / International Assistance**

Notice of a new rail inquiry opened by the Commission on Monday 18 December 2023, for your information.

RO-2023-106 opened by the Commission.

NZTA notified the Commission this morning of an incident involving a KiwiRail passenger train (TranzAlpine) that had occurred at around 4:00pm on Sunday 17 December 2023.

The circumstances reported to date are that the train experienced a decoupling of carriages (parting) near Arthur's Pass while travelling from Greymouth to Christchurch. The train was reportedly carrying 54 passengers and 10 crew at the time. No injuries have been reported. The incident carriage was subsequently disconnected, and the train continued on its journey to Christchurch without further incident.

The Commissioner has opened an inquiry under Section 13(1)b of the Transport Accident Investigation Commission Act and appointed Jason Lawn as the lead investigator for this inquiry. Jason will be supported by Jeff Shearer.



## NETWORK

### Christmas holiday network maintenance in Auckland and Wellington

The Auckland and Wellington metro networks will be closed to commuter trains between 26 December 2023 and 15 January 2024. Freight trains will resume running on 5 January 2024. This is a standard closure every year, offering an extended period of uninterrupted access for project and maintenance work. This benefits all rail users, as major progress is made in maintenance and improvement work to support a reliable rail system.

#### Work in Auckland includes:

- Completing Stage 2 of Auckland's Rail Network Rebuild (RNR) on the Eastern Line, which has been closed since March 2023. AT's commuter services will resume on 15 January 2024. This is a major milestone as we ready Auckland for the City Rail Link.
- Progressing enabling works for the new 3rd Main Line around Middlemore Station and signalling upgrades at Wiri, as a step towards making the whole Wiri to Quay Park 3rd Main operational.
- Commissioning the new overhead lines between Papakura and Pukekohe, as part of the project to extend electrification to Pukekohe to unlock land use development in Auckland's southern corridor.
- Replacing rails, sleepers, and ballast (the rocks that sit around the tracks) at sites across Auckland as part of ongoing maintenance for a reliable network.
- City Rail Link teams are doing significant track and civil work at Waitemata Station, at Quay Park and some work at Newmarket.
- Slip repair work at a number of sites on the Western Line between New Lynn and Fruitvale.
- Doing major civil and drainage works on the inner part of the Western Line (New Lynn – Newmarket), as part of Stage 3a of the RNR.

#### Work in Wellington includes:

- Renewal work begins inside the Maoribank and Remutaka Tunnels, on the Wairarapa Line, to update the original track from 1955. An old wooden bridge (Bridge 56) near Matarawa will be replaced. Capacity-building upgrades will start with work on a new passing loop at Woodside Station and the Fitzherbert St level crossing in Featherston.
- The complex re-signalling work at Wellington Railway Station will continue, alongside much-needed work on various tracks, foundations, and platforms. This project will improve safety in what is New Zealand's most complex railway junction.
- Work on the Kāpiti Line to complete the last major portion of the Plimmerton Station upgrade project. The upgrade includes adding a third track and platform at the station and will allow commuter trains that currently run from Wellington to Porirua to be extended to Plimmerton, helping with capacity at peak times. Bridge 23 (just north of Paekākāriki) will also be replaced.
- Maintenance work on the Hutt Valley Line, largely between Ava and Taitā Stations.

**3 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES**

*(Continued)*

KiwiRail has issued press releases and stakeholder communications about the planned Christmas work, and we also have communications staff working over the Christmas holidays to answer any queries or complaints members of the public may raise.

If you would like to visit any of the holiday maintenance sites during the break, our team would be pleased to welcome you to site.

**The Strand Station opening event**

On 21 December 2023, KiwiRail will hold a blessing and opening event for the new station building in central Auckland. The new station is a KiwiRail initiative for travellers to check in and relax prior to boarding their Northern Explorer scenic or Te Huia train journey.

66 The Strand, a former railway signals building which dates from 1930, has been completely restored and renovated, adding modern features, such as a new café, waiting lounge and workspace area. It will provide thousands of passengers travelling between Auckland and Wellington each month with fantastic facilities, before they go and on arrival.

The New Strand building is available to Great Journeys New Zealand customers to check in for their Northern Explorer scenic train journey, guided tours, and for Te Huia passengers. It has a café, comfortable waiting area, toilets, and showers. Free WiFi will be available in the early part of next year.

**INTERISLANDER****Summer season – forecasts and preparation**

Over the summer months, we are currently forecasting to carry around 258,000 passengers over 89,000 vehicles (December – February). This week (from 18 December 2023), we have just over 10,000 passengers booked to travel with us (10,124), and we are nearing capacity as we head into the busiest period of 23 December 2023 to 6 January 2024. The days just after Christmas from 27-29 December are looking likely to be our busiest days of the year.

To ensure we can offer travel options to passengers during this busy time, we have put on additional sailings from Picton leaving at 2:30am and sailings from Wellington leaving at 2:00am and 6:15am. We are also taking some bookings on what are usually freight-only sailings.

Interislander crews take pride in creating great customer experiences. Our message to the team is to focus on a professional and competent service to demonstrate our fantastic Interislander experience to customers. We have lifted our asset management and operational systems across 2023, in readiness for this peak and the coming years. Our team is focussed on the “big four”: safe, reliable, on time, with amazing customer service.

**Safe On-Time Performance and Reliability**

Customers care about Interislander on-time performance (OTP) and reliability.

We measure OTP based on a “safe on time customer journey” against the scheduled sailing timetable, and reliability based on sailings occurring as scheduled. In instances where we are using the Northern Entrance to the Sounds due to rough weather and safety concerns instead of the usual route through the Southern Entrance, it is a given that our expected sailing times are extended. In essence we are measuring our performance from a customer journey perspective and ensuring we are meeting their expectations.

The below shows the trend data for OTP and reliability:



- Reliability has been on target, however the time to repair the Kaiarahi disrupted sailings in mid-late November and has returned to target following the completed repair.
- OTP has been similarly impacted by the Kaiarahi outage during November, with weather disruptions affecting sailings in early October. In December we have recovered significantly and are running ahead of target moving into the busy holiday peak.

We benchmark ourselves against Air New Zealand, which averaged 75 per cent OTP during September 2023. So far Interislander OTP has averaged 86.77 per cent during this financial year. Air New Zealand’s most recent On Time Performance data, as published, is shown below:

**On-time performance results for the 12 months ending 30 September 2023\***

Network	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023
International Long Haul	75.3%	55.9%	44.6%	59.2%	62.4%	70.8%	68.5%	62.3%	67.1%	69.9%	67.6%	70.1%
International Short Haul	65.5%	48.9%	46.1%	59.3%	54.7%	56.3%	72.7%	68.8%	68.0%	68.3%	70.8%	67.7%
Domestic Jet	77.3%	67.1%	76.2%	80.1%	72.6%	75.4%	85.6%	87.9%	84.3%	81.4%	82.0%	76.9%
Regional Airlines	79.1%	72.2%	75.3%	80.7%	77.0%	82.8%	87.0%	84.7%	87.9%	85.2%	86.4%	83.8%
Full Airline	77.2%	68.1%	71.0%	77.0%	73.2%	78.1%	84.2%	82.6%	83.8%	81.5%	82.6%	79.7%

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**3 UPDATES FROM TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITIES AND SOES****LONG DISTANCE PASSENGER TRAINS****Te Huia passenger numbers**

Te Huia operations have been reliable to date in December (19 December 2023) with no cancellations or bus replacements. The average daily passenger count has been 254 on weekday services and 199 on Saturdays, and 3,390 passengers have used the service so far in December.

**Capital Connection**

Capital Connection operations have been reliable to date in December (19 December 2023) with no cancellations or bus replacements. The average daily passenger count has been 482, and 5,298 passengers have used the service so far in December.

**TRANZALPINE DECOUPLING**

On Sunday 17 December 2023, the new luggage carriage we have added to the TranzAlpine decoupled from the end of the train just as it was arriving at Arthurs Pass. The luggage carriage does not carry passengers and there was no impact on our passengers. If a carriage separates from a train, the brakes on all carriages go on automatically.

As a result, we have removed this class of carriage – which includes the luggage and kitchen carriages used for our Scenic Plus service on the TranzAlpine and Coastal Pacific – so that they can all undergo a detailed inspection. Unfortunately, this means we have had to suspend our Scenic Plus service and are offering those passengers alternative bookings or refunds. We have apologised to them for the inconvenience.

There are no issues with any other carriages on the TranzAlpine and Coastal Pacific and both trains are running.

NZTA (as rail regulator) and TAIC have been advised of the incident, and we are investigating the cause.

We hope to identify and remedy any issue as quickly as possible so that Scenic Plus can resume.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

**21 December 2023** – The Strand Station opening event – As above, opening event for the Strand Station. KiwiRail officials and local government officials attending.

**Mid-January 2024** – RNR Stage 2 completed/Eastern Line reopened press release (with Auckland Transport).

**Around mid-March 2024** – Auckland Train Control Centre opening event:

- This centre is important for Auckland commuter rail, particularly once the City Rail Link begins operating, and there will be more frequent commuter services in Auckland.
- It will see the relevant KiwiRail, Auckland Transport and Auckland One Rail teams working in the same premises for the first time – which will support more efficient operations/disruption management.
- We can hold an opening event which Ministers could speak at, followed by a tour of the centre (it has a large control room). Media will be invited.

**Mid – late March 2024** – Hillside workshops (Dunedin) first wagon assembled.

- Event to mark completion of the first production wagon.
- Speeches followed by a tour of the facility, where there will be a series of wagons in different stages of assembly and meet staff. Media will be invited.

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY  
TE MANATŪ WAKA MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

## Directory

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