

Review into bus safety - Questions and Answers

What is the purpose of the report?

The Ministry of Transport, with input from the NZ Transport Agency, has prepared a report on bus safety in New Zealand. This follows three serious bus crashes in mid-2018.

What is the scope of the report?

The report contains a summary of known facts about the three crashes, an outline of the regulatory requirements for bus safety in New Zealand, and an overview of work to improve the safety of bus travel further.

Any detail on circumstances around individual crashes fall within the scope of NZ Police and the findings of relevant coronial inquires. The report does not seek to replicate these, or the NZ Transport Agency's investigation into the Mount Ruapehu crash.

What did the report find?

The report found that in each of the crashes, there were no driver licence breaches and all vehicles had a current certificate of fitness (CoF).

While each of the crashes involved Mitsubishi Fuso buses manufactured between 1991 and 1995, the NZ Transport Agency does not suspect that vehicle design or manufacturing deficiencies contributed to the crashes.

The NZ Transport Agency has confirmed there is no link between the vehicles involved in the crashes and the heavy vehicle specialist certifiers or other certification agents (such as agents completing CoF checks) that are being investigated by the NZTA.

Figures show travelling by bus is the safest mode of road transport, and significantly safer than travelling by car.

- Since 1990, bus crashes have accounted for 1 to 1.5 percent of annual fatal and injury crashes. There has not been an increase in the number of crashes involving buses in New Zealand over the long term.
- For every 100 million kilometres travelled 22 car drivers were killed or injured, 13 car passengers were killed or injured, and three bus passengers were killed or injured.

Are any actions being taken as a result of the report?

The Ministry of Transport takes any death or injury on our roads seriously and we are committed to making bus travel, along with all other modes of travel, safer.

The findings of this report will feed into the development of the new Road Safety Strategy.