

# Environment and Social Responsibility Policy

Approved December 2022

## Summary of the policy

This policy describes how Waka Kotahi commits to operating in a socially and environmentally responsible way.

## Purpose

This policy sets out how Waka Kotahi commits to operating in a socially and environmentally responsible and sustainable way across all of its activities, including corporate activities and statutory functions and activities.

## Application

Everyone at Waka Kotahi must comply with this policy. This includes all permanent, seconded, and temporary employees and contractors.

## Why we need this policy

One of the statutory operating principles for Waka Kotahi (s96(1)(a) Land Transport Management Act 2003) sets an expectation to 'exhibit a sense of social and environmental responsibility' in 'meeting its objectives and undertaking its functions'.

This policy helps us set out how Waka Kotahi commits to operate in ways that reflect this principle.

This policy speaks to how we deliver on system outcomes, through key elements of our role, values and behaviours set out in Te Kāpehu - Our Compass. It supports our Environmentally Sustainable system outcome in particular, and the roles and values below.

## Our roles

### Te anamata - Leave great legacies:

We shape and invest in a sustainable transport system for everyone.

### Kia marutau - Enable a safe system:

We reduce harm to people and the environment.

## Our values and behaviours

### Ngākau aroha - Have heart:

We have the wellbeing of our people, community and planet at the heart of everything we do.

## ***Titiro whakamuri kōkiri whakamua***

*Leaving tomorrow better than today*

**Waka Kotahi upholds the natural environment as a taonga that sustains all life.**

**Waka Kotahi upholds the mana, wellbeing and safety of all people and communities.**

We care for the natural environment for all generations, recognising the importance and urgency of reducing emissions, improving resilience and protecting biodiversity for a thriving Aotearoa.

We care for the built environment for all generations, recognising the interwoven nature of cultural identity, belonging and connection to people and places.

Working in partnership with Māori and communities we strive to enhance the benefits of the land transport system and responsibly avoid or manage adverse impacts, ensuring the system safeguards public health and operates within environmental limits. Our goal is to leave tomorrow better than today.

### **Waka Kotahi is committed to:**

- Recognising and respecting Te Tiriti o Waitangi and supporting Māori to exercise their environmental and community kaitiaki responsibilities
- Protecting and enhancing the natural environment, including the health, integrity and connectivity of biodiversity, inclusive of ecosystems, indigenous species and their habitats
- Reducing emissions and mitigating the effects of land transport on the environment and public health
- Adapting the land transport system to the impacts of climate change in ways that respect the environment, biodiversity and community prosperity
- Enabling a safe land transport system where no one is killed or seriously injured
- Protecting and enhancing the cultural and built environment to support community and economic outcomes and connections, respect cultural and heritage values and improve public health and wellbeing

- Seeking innovative solutions that maximise multiple outcomes and minimise trade-offs across environmental, economic, social and cultural dimensions
- Providing meaningful and transparent engagement with partners, stakeholders, customers and the public
- Providing trusted, equitable and efficient customer-focused services.

### **To implement this policy we seek to:**

#### **Honour Te Tiriti Waitangi principles**

- Enable Māori to exercise kaitiakitanga over their environment and communities
- Provide for the importance and inclusion of te ao Māori, including mātauranga Māori, te reo Māori, tikanga and kawa
- Support the improvement of Māori social outcomes by enabling inclusive access to transport services.

#### **Care for the natural and built environment**

- Use resources sustainably and efficiently, reduce waste and transition to low carbon infrastructure and services that support a circular economy
- Provide a land transport system that offers people, goods and services access that:
  - » avoids harm when we can, minimises it when we cannot, and prioritises remediation ahead of considering offsetting or compensation
  - » reduces harmful emissions and pollution
  - » increases the resilience of transport networks and the lifelines they provide.

- Steward all elements of the transport system within landscape and catchment contexts, to protect and enhance the natural environment, including retaining existing and introducing new nature-based solutions, protecting and enhancing biodiversity and supporting the adaptive capacity of the environment to respond to climate change.

### Care for people and public health

- Adopt a long-term, systems-based approach to transport system planning at different spatial scales to improve national, regional and local public health, social and environmental outcomes
- Champion, plan, regulate and deliver a land transport system that:
  - » supports people to avoid or reduce the need to travel by private car
  - » promotes active and shared low carbon transport modes
  - » makes best use of the existing transport system for the sustainable and reliable movement of people and goods
  - » manages demand for access in ways that meet customer needs
  - » improves the efficiency of the light and heavy vehicle fleets.
- Enhance and contribute to social, cultural, ecological and community cohesion through addressing severance and supporting connectivity and place-making
- Protect and enhance places and values of natural, social, cultural and heritage significance, recognising the role these play in supporting identity, belonging and wellbeing
- Integrate good urban design, planning and development into all of our activities to improve environmental, social, economic and public health outcomes.

### Care for stakeholders, communities and customers

- Take time to understand and respond to the values and needs of affected and interested people, business and communities; engage early, consistently and with integrity

- Support communities to enable and adopt safe, healthy and environmentally sustainable travel choices
- Work towards an equitable transport system that is affordable, accessible and safe for all people.

### Lead and build capability and capacity

- Leverage our resources and activities for broader outcomes sought by Government where transport has a significant enabling role to play
- Equip our people and suppliers with the skills, awareness, leadership, systems and processes to deliver improved environmental, social, cultural and public health outcomes
- Support regional and local employment and capability development for sustainable infrastructure and service planning, delivery and management.

### Continuously lift our performance

- Use and share data, research and insights to collectively drive increased stewardship of the natural and built environment and public health improvements
- Comply with all relevant environmental, social and sustainability legislation and regulation, while aiming for best practice within our mandate
- Seek whole of life value for money in all of our activities, taking account of monetised and non-monetised environmental and social costs and benefits
- Improve the identification, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and management of environmental, cultural, social and public health impacts to improve outcomes for current and future generations.

***Toitū te taiao,  
whatungarongaro te tangata***

*The environment remains,  
while people pass through*

## Relevant guidelines, legislation and regulations

You can find more detailed guidance, operational policies and tools on our website:

[www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/about-waka-kotahi-nz-transport-agency/environmental-and-social-responsibility/environmental-and-social-legislation-and-policy](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/about-waka-kotahi-nz-transport-agency/environmental-and-social-responsibility/environmental-and-social-legislation-and-policy)

## Contact

For further information and guidance contact: [environment@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:environment@nzta.govt.nz)

## Policy variation

This policy can be amended, removed, or replaced from time to time at the discretion of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Board.

