MINO-4116 Monthly bus driver update – April 2023

Office of Hon Michael Wood seeks monthly information regarding:

- Bus driver shortages
- Progress on all party MoUs and uplifting driver wages by region
- Bus service cancellations by region

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

The national driver shortfall continues to reduce:

Total PTA reported shortage	
December 2022	860
January 2023	No data available
February 2023	715
March 2023	606
April 2023	564

Over 500 drivers are in the process of being recruited and/or trained. However, because personnel continue to resign, (albeit in smaller numbers than before), and not all the people within the recruitment system will complete their journey through the Immigration process and into New Zealand, the shortage is not yet resolved.

Regions are making progress towards uplifting wage rates. In particular:

- Auckland have executed All Parties MoUs s 9(2)(b)(ii) [redacted]. The signed MoUs confirm the parties' intent to get to $30 as a base rate and confirms an incremental increase towards the target rate effective from 1 April 2023.
- Canterbury has executed all parties' MoUs and confirmed wage increases effective from 1 April 2023.
- Wellington has announced wage increases from 1 March 2023 that will achieve an average urban rate of $30 and is progressing execution of all parties' MoUs.
- Otago has announced wage increases to $30 effective from 1 March 2023 and is progressing execution of all Parties MoU.

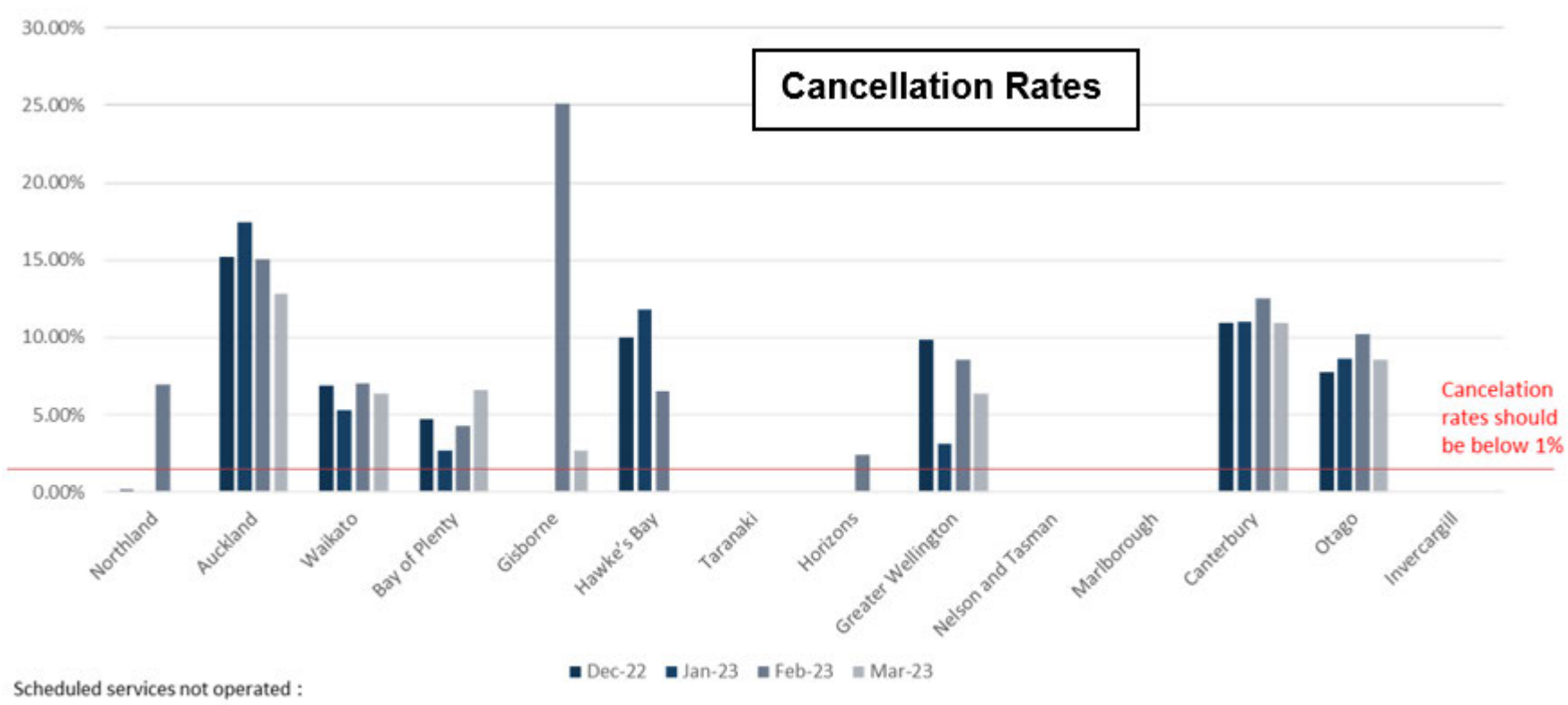
Implementation of the sector agreement and immigration pathway remains an important initiative for enabling continued improvement to the national bus driver shortage, including being required to enable progressing some of the 500 recruited personnel. s 9(2)(b)(ii) [redacted]

Proactively Released

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

[redacted]

Proactively Released



Scheduled services not operated :

- Some regions have reduced the number of scheduled trips in order to reduce cancelation rates.
- Other factors in addition to driver shortages can influence the number of trips not operated and/or the ability to monitor trips not operated.
- Gisborne and Hawkes Bay cancelation rates were impacted by the cyclone