Construction of a new roundabout is underway at the State Highway 6/State Highway 84 intersection, Mt Iron.

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WEEKLY REPORT TO THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

Week ending 14 April 2023

#324

New Zealand Government

1. CURRENT BRIEFINGS (BRI) AND MINISTER QUERIES (MIN)

REFERENCE	TITLE	DUE DATE
Minister Wood		
MIN-4135	COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Worker accommodation, Hansen Road, Queenstown	COMPLETED
MIN-4136	COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Te Rere Hau Wind Farm: Aokautere Extension & Whakatipu Solar Projects	COMPLETED
MIN-4137	COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Plimmerton Farm Stage One, Millard Avenue Residential Development & Lincoln Retirement Village project	COMPLETED
MIN-4138	COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Verran Mews Project	COMPLETED
MIN-4142	Driver licence data	COMPLETED
MINO-676	Fast Track Notice of Consent application by Kiwi Property Holdings	COMPLETED
MINO-686	Waka Kotahi comments on referral applications - Whenuapai Business Park and Ngongotaha Housing Development Projects	COMPLETED
MINO-687	Waka Kotahi comments on referral applications – solar farm projects	COMPLETED
BRI-2748	Speed Management Programme	14 April 2023
MIN-3987	Golden Mile Communications Plan – Follow up	14 April 2023
MIN-4139	COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Hobsonville Road Retirement Village Project	14 April 2023
MIN-4140	COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Stevensons Crescent and Peachgrove Mixed Use Precinct Projects	14 April 2023
MIN-4145	RiverLink Communications note	14 March 2023

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MINO-706	Advice on Transport Choices Revised Investment Programme	14 April 2023
MINO-706	Takanini Level Crossings project	14 April 2023
MINO-712	Transport Projects scheduled for completion in 2024 to 2026	14 April 2023
BRI-2734	Electric Vehicle Charging - Temporary Traffic Management cost break down and flexibility	Week ending 20 March 2023
BRI-2745	New Zealand Upgrade Programme update April 2023	Week ending 20 April 2023
MIN-4116	Monthly bus driver update – April 2023	Week ending 20 April 2023
MIN-4121	Ara Tuhono – Puhoi to Warkworth full update	Week ending 20 April 2023
MIN-4128	Multi-stakeholder meeting on Auckland ferries	Week ending 20 April 2023
MIN-4141	Moetapu Bay Road	Week ending 20 April 2023
MINO-683	Lines for Distracted Driver Trial	Week ending 20 April 2023
MINO-701	COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Foundation Village Building 3 and The Pitau Project	Week ending 20 April 2023
MINO-702	COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Southern Parallel Sports Project	Week ending 20 April 2023
MINO-703	COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Reimagining Aquaculture Project	Week ending 20 April 2023
MINO-669	Collateral for Golden Mile	Week ending 20 April 2023
MINO-693	Auckland Harbour Bridge options lines	Week ending 20 April 2023
MINO-630	Mass Rapid Transport projects	Week ending 20 April 2023

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MINO-691	Traffic movements on Quay Street and reducing speeds on State Highway 25 plans	Week ending 20 April 2023
MINO-700	State Highway 73 speed limit through Otira lines	Week ending 20 April 2023
MINO-704	Falling streetlamps in Wellington	19 April 2023
MIN-4087	ConnectNZ Conference speaking notes	Week ending 27 April 2023
MIN-4103	Electric vehicle charging – Temporary Traffic Management	Week ending 27 April 2023
MINO-694	Information about safety improvements and deaths and serious injuries on State Highway 2 near Maramarua	Week ending 27 April 2023
MINO-696	Advice regarding loose animals	Week ending 27 April 2023
MINO-697	Coromandel recovery –-local road network update	Week ending 27 April 2023
BRI-2743	KiwiRail's Rail Network Investment Programme	28 April 2023
BRI-2739	Pavement Conference 2023	Week ending 18 May 2023
MIN-4095	Safety Camera Programme update	Week ending 25 May 2023
MIN-4126	Indicative numbers of deaths and serious injuries for 2022 – MIN-3887 follow-up	Week ending 10 August 2023

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2. ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

REFERENCE	TITLE	DUE DATE
MINO-698	Communications plan and public relations for the Minister ahead of establishment of/signing the Alliance	COMPLETED
MINO-696	Advice regarding loose animals	Week ending 27 April 2023
MINO-697	Coromandel recovery – Regional Land Transport Programme and network update	Week ending 27 April 2023

3. MEETINGS WITH OTHER MINISTERS

REFERENCE	DATE
N/A	

4. SELECT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

REFERENCE	DATE
N/A	Text

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5. KEY UPDATES

TITLE	UPDATE
Easter Weekend Network Performance	During the Easter long weekend (7 to 10 April 2023) travel was impacted due to an increased level of congestion. Waka Kotahi implemented its normal plans to help ease congestion over the weekend, including: • publishing the Holiday Journey Hotspot information to inform customers of travel times to avoid; and • implementing passing lane closures in known hotspots to improve traffic flow. In addition to the usual holiday hotspots, this year these areas included parts of the network under traffic management or reduced capacity due to Cyclone Gabrielle damage. This was especially noted on 9 April 2023, with significant delays on State Highway 5 between Eskdale and Te Pōhue due to stop/go traffic management and heavy holiday traffic. There were several weather warnings in place across the weekend, including amber rain alerts in place for Gisborne and Hawke's Bay. As a precautionary measure, State Highway 35 between Tokomaru Bay to Te Puia Springs, was closed overnight on 7 April 2023. Overall, there were no significant impacts to the State Highway network, with the only weather-related closures seen in the evening of 9 April 2023 between Puhoi to Warkworth (for 45 minutes) and briefly on State Highway 1, north of Taupo, on 10 April 2023 due to fallen trees. **Road Closures** Over the course of the Easter long weekend there were several serious crashes. However, when compared to the same holiday weekend in 2022, there were less fatal and serious crashes/incidents on the State Highway network. 2023 saw one fatality during the Easter Holiday period, down from five in 2022. Only one event closed a state highway for longer than 3 hours: • State Highway 38, Murupara to Waikaremoana, was closed for 7 hours due to a truck breaking down on 8 April 2023.

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TITLE	UPDATE
Driver Licensing Improvement Programme Update	Due to damaged roads in the wider Tairāwhiti region, the Waka Kotahi driver testing, and training team and the Driver Licensing Improvement Programme (DLIP) team have worked alongside the Tairāwhiti Rural Education Activities Programme (REAP), Eastbay REAP, Vehicle Testing NZ (VTNZ) and the Automobile Association to establish a practical driver licence test route in Opōtiki. The route will provide certainty for students living in the East Cape who had previously travelled to Gisborne via State Highway 35 to be part of the driver licensing trial. Testing for students of Tairāwhiti REAP will commence from the week of 17 April 2023, and public testing by VTNZ is expected to commence from July 2023. The DLIP team are leading the drafting of a briefing for Employment, Education and Training (EET) Deputy Chief Executives (DCE), Chief Executives (CE) and Ministers. The briefing includes feedback on engagement and customer insights, and will include the DLIP delivery roadmap, and a visual overview of the Programme Business Case. It will be discussed at the EET DCE's meeting on 28 April 2023, EET CE's meeting on 10 May 2023 and EET Ministers' meeting on 1 June 2023, which is the last EET Ministers scheduled in the pre-election period.
Releasing the findings of the Public Attitudes to Road Safety 2022 Report commissioned by Waka Kotahi	Waka Kotahi is publishing a comprehensive report with insights from surveys into New Zealander's attitudes to multiple aspects of road safety. It includes feedback about motorist and passenger's attitudes to speed, enforcement, car safety, driver fatigue, impairment, and distraction. The survey was resumed after a gap of several years since it was previously conducted by Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport. Key findings from the recent survey indicate that the majority of New Zealanders perceive our roads as safe to drive on – however, the percentage of those who hold this perception has fallen from 79 percent to 71 percent. **What Waka Kotahi is doing:** • More is being spent on state highway maintenance, with investment via the 2021-24 National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) increased to $2 billion, including $300 million for emergency works, up 30 percent on the previous three years (2018-21). ○ Only 51 percent believe safety cameras help reduce road deaths despite international research, which

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TITLE	UPDATE

	continues to show safety cameras can reduce road deaths by up to 48 percent.
	
	• Placement of safety cameras is one of our top five strategic priorities and is progressing to support the international research, including undertaking the process of using data to identify camera placement in areas of highest risk to reduce deaths and serious injuries.
	
	  o New Zealanders think both open road speed limits and those in urban areas are about right; however, more than 65 percent support lower speed limits (40 kilometres per hour) around schools in urban areas.
	
	• We reviewed the current state of school bus safety and identified measures to enhance the safety of students and bus drivers in and around school buses. This included reviewing the speed at which motorists travel while passing a stationary school bus. The review also examined the current legislation and made recommendations on measures to improve the safety of those travelling on school buses. The final report is due to be published in late April 2023. Waka Kotahi is also updating its work programme to respond to the Government's direction regarding future speed reduction work.
	
	  o Almost half of those surveyed (46 percent) think that any road death from road crashes is unacceptable
	
	• The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport includes a strategic priority of safety for both regional and urban areas and implicit in that is our road safety strategy, Road to Zero. Waka Kotahi continues to promote the Road to Zero programme internally with a staff hui scheduled for 11 May 2023 to provide an update, and externally through liaising over a series of planned roadshows with stakeholders involving ACC, Police and Local Government to reinforce support for the road safety strategy.
	
	We will publish the survey results on our website, along with a media release in April 2023, supported by actions, including those listed above.

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TITLE	UPDATE
Another viral TikTok – over 1 million total likes for Waka Kotahi	Our following on TikTok continues to grow thanks to this video of some playful Kea re-positioning road cones at the Homer Tunnel. It had 2.2 million views in under 24 hours, with over 800,000 views in New Zealand and the balance coming from our international audience. This video achieved over 1 million total likes across all our posts on TikTok - a fantastic result. We're the first New Zealand government account to cross the 1 million mark. TikTok is an important communications channel for Waka Kotahi at present and is used to reinforce behaviour change and safe driving messages, particularly aimed at younger audiences. We continue to monitor the all-of-government guidance in relation to the platform to ensure our use remains within this guidance.
Joint sponsorship of the 2023 Urbanism Conference	Waka Kotahi is a joint sponsor with Kāinga Ora of the 2023 Urbanism conference being held in Auckland from 27 to 28 April 2023. This year's theme is Shaping Our Urban Legacy. Following the conference, a workshop is held with a selection of delegates from local authorities, private practice, and universities, who are considered to be the country's leading urban thinkers, to develop a Statement of New Zealand Urbanism. This captures the discussion from the conference and is designed to provide a statement on urban planning and management which may be useful to central government. It is our intention to be part of the conversation, to help shape the narrative, the same as we have done in the past.

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TITLE	UPDATE
Consumer Price Index Increase in toll road charges	The cost of tolls on the three New Zealand toll roads are to increase from July 2023 as follows:

$	Cars/Motorcycles		Trucks	
	From	To	From	To
Northern Gateway (north of Auckland)	2.40	2.60	4.80	5.20
Tauranga Eastern Link (Bay of Plenty)	2.10	2.30	5.20	5.60
Takitimu Drive, Tauranga (Bay of Plenty)	1.90	2.10	5.00	5.40

Increases in tolls are necessary to ensure the repayment of debt in a timely manner. The Orders in Council for each of the toll roads has wording that in essence states that Waka Kotahi may from time to time increase tolls provided that increases do not exceed Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases and are rounded to the nearest 10 cents.

The increases are in line with expectations around the long-term CPI, rather than the actual CPI rate. This has resulted in increases of 2 percent per annum rather than 4 percent per annum. The current CPI 'spike' has been 'looked through' to reduce the impact to the users.

Waka Kotahi has by convention reviewed and increased the level of tolls approximately every three years. The last increase was in 2019. The increases are rounded to the nearest ten cents. The current increases were endorsed by the Waka Kotahi Board in March 2023.

CPI toll increases were assumed in the business cases for all toll roads. The loans at current interest rates are expected to be repaid ahead of the original business case. However, two of the three loans are very sensitive to interest rates. An increase in the loan rates (primarily on Northern Gateway) would change the repayment date materially, meaning users would be tolled for a longer period of time. In effect, it is like paying down a home mortgage early seeking to pay off tolling debt.

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TITLE	UPDATE
	The increases are in accordance with the existing orders in council and all toll roads have an alternative 'toll-free' route. Media releases to announce the increases are expected to occur around May 2023 to allow (at least) the required one month's notice ahead of the price increases taking effect.
Speed review decision – Road to Zero Speed and Infrastructure Programme (SIP)	In late 2021 we consulted on speed limit changes for High Street, State Highway 60, in Motueka. This included a proposed change to the existing school Variable Speed Limit. Currently the school Variable Speed Limit for State Highway 60, Motueka, is 40 kilometres per hour during peak school times and 50 kilometres per hour at all other times. On 24 April 2023, the existing school Variable Speed Limit will change to 30 kilometres per hour during peak school times and 50 kilometres per hour at all other times. We will be advising the public of the change from 17 April 2023 through a media release, social media posts, and print advertising in local newspapers. During consultation, some of the community questioned the necessity of changing the speed from 40 kilometres per hour to 30 kilometres per hour during peak school times, due to traffic congestion that already slows vehicles down. There are two schools within the variable speed limit (Motueka South School and St Peters Channel School) – both are supportive of the change. This speed review was consulted on prior to the new Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2022 so is out of cycle from the Interim State Highway Speed Management Plan.

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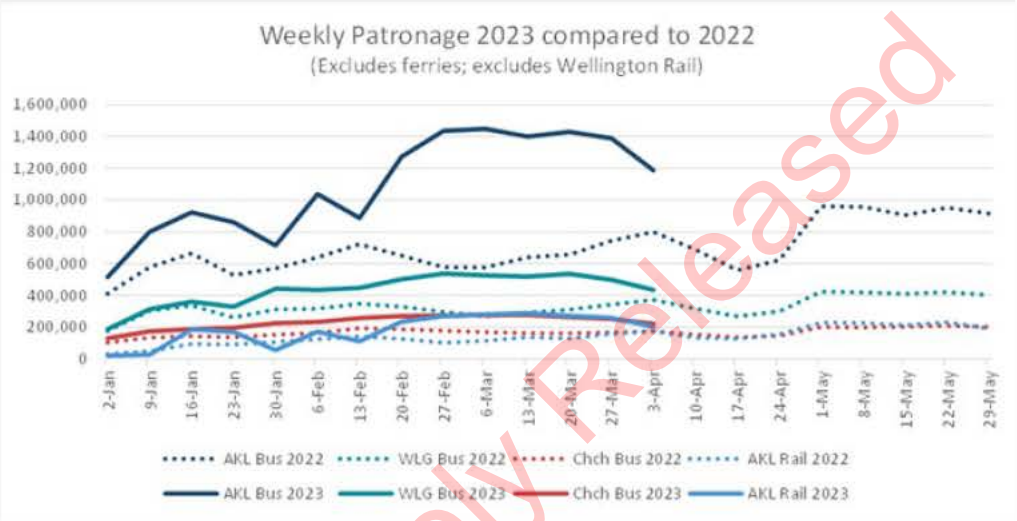
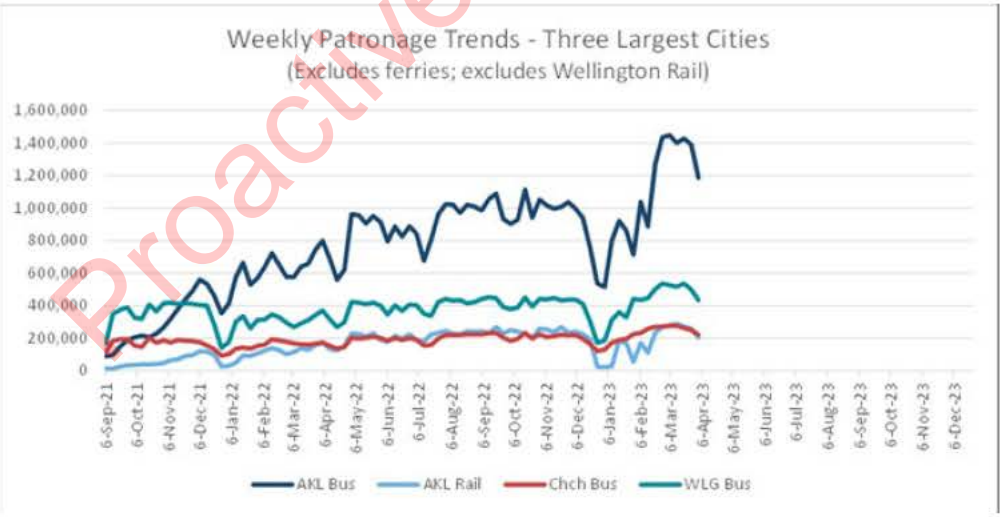
6. REGULAR UPDATES

TITLE	UPDATE
Public Transport Update	Patronage for last week includes Good Friday, meaning there is an expected drop which will also continue for next week's figures with Easter Monday and the School Holidays starting. However, due to the observed Easter holidays shifting each year, and an inconsistent relationship between Easter, school holidays and ANZAC day, comparisons throughout April with previous years should not be relied on for any form of performance indicator.





Motorcycling safety: Shiny Side Up	Shiny Side Up events have now finished for 2023, with good attendance and positive feedback received. Despite cancellations/changes to three events due to Cyclone Gabrielle, attendance of over 3500 people across eight events was pleasing and 99 percent of post-event survey respondents said they would recommend Shiny Side Up to others. While registrations for ACC's Ride Forever training were lower than

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TITLE	UPDATE
	hoped, 82 percent of survey respondents indicated they intend to do the training in future. A comprehensive evaluation of Shiny Side Up is underway to inform future decisions and planning.

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7. REGIONAL UPDATES

REGIONAL AREA	UPDATE
Central North Island	**Hikuwai bridge** Downer has engaged a number of local subcontractors for the work on the Hikuwai bridge. Works now underway include aggregate haulage, bridge abutment clearance, excavation, and crane preparation. Good progress has been made with slash debris removal and silt and vegetation clearing, and crane establishment is in progress, with the crane making its way from Palmerston North to Gisborne. Aggregate required for the Bailey bridge detour road after the silt/slash stockpiles have been removed, and re-alignment earthworks for Matairau Road are in progress. Activities being undertaken by local subcontractors on the project include: • South side aggregate haulage: Harrison Bulk Haulage, Huddy • North side, carting slash and silt from stockpile to fill site: Kuru • North side, bridge abutment clearance, excavation, and crane pad preparation: Kuru, Harrisons.

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8. MEDIA UPDATES

REGIONAL AREA	UPDATE
Waikato/Bay of Plenty	**Glenview Bus Hub, Hamilton** A media statement is planned for release during the week ending 21 April 2023 to celebrate the completion of the Glenview Bus Hub in Hamilton. **Baylink/Bayfair flyover** A media statement is planned for release during the week ending 21 April 2023 to announce the planned opening of the Bay Link Bayfair flyover in Tauranga, scheduled to open at the end of April 2023. **State Highway 29 safety improvements** A media statement is planned for release during the week ending 21 April 2023 to announce the opening of public engagement for proposed safety improvements on State Highway 29.
Central North Island	**Hawkes Bay/Tairāwhiti network update** A media statement is planned for release during the week ending 21 April 2023 to provide a progress update on the rebuild/repair of the Hawkes Bay/Tairāwhiti State Highway Network. **Ohakea Base/State Highway 3 roundabout** A media statement is planned for release during the week ending 21 April 2023 to announce the awarding of the construction contract for a new roundabout to improve safety at the intersection of State Highway 3 and the Ohakea Air Force Base. **State Highway 51 safety improvements** A media statement is planned for release during the week ending 21 April 2023 to provide information on planned safety improvements on State Highway 51, including construction of a temporary roundabout.
Wellington/Top of South	**Riverlink delivery alliance** A media statement is planned for release during the week ending 21 April 2023 to announce the awarding of a contract to deliver the Riverlink project. **State Highway 60 speed limits** A media statement is planned for release on 17 April 2023 to announce new variable speed limits for a section of State Highway 60 in Motueka. This will see the introduction of a new 50 kilometre

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REGIONAL AREA	UPDATE
	per hour/ 30 kilometre per hour variable speed zone in the Motueka township to improve safety. **State Highway 58 closure** A media statement is planned for release on 18 April 2023 to remind motorists of a planned full weekend closure of State Highway 58 at the end of April 2023.

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9. STATE HIGHWAY CLOSURES

REGIONAL AREA	UPDATE
Auckland/Northland	**State Highway 1 Mangamuka Gorge** Due to multiple large slips and dropouts, State Highway 1 is closed between Kitchen Road and Makene Road until further notice.

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10. CABINET PAPER FOR INPUT

Title	Summary	Estimated timing
Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Bill – approval to progress with Supplementary Order Paper relating to transition period and homelessness Lead Agency: The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)	The paper seeks Cabinet approval to progress with a Supplementary Order Paper amending some previous policy decisions by: 1. Extending the possible time period for private owners to have their vehicles certified from 12 months to 24 months. This is to mitigate demand on the operators providing certification. 2. Including an exemption within the Bill for homelessness to ensure that the homeless population is not unduly affected by the legislation. We are supportive of these measures. As noted in the paper, there is a possibility that the recommended definition of homelessness may raise enforcement issues around demonstrating 'necessity'. This is addressed by MBIE's proposed mitigation of providing guidance to enforcement officers. Waka Kotahi will ask to be consulted on the draft guidelines.	LEG on 4 May 2023

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11. ROAD DEATH UPDATE – WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL 2023 TO TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2023

Key: SAAS: Safe and Appropriate Speed. SH: State highway. IRR: Infrastructure Risk Rating. UCSR: Used Car Safety Rating. ANCAP: Australasian New Car Assessment Program. CWR: Crash Worthiness Rating. VSRR: Vehicle Safety Risk Rating. Top 10%: the 10% of regional networks assessed to deliver the greatest DSI savings through Speed Management.

Crash description		Speeds		Roads & Roadsides			People			Vehicles		
What happened (NZ Police description)	Date of crash Time of crash Local Council	Speed limit km/h	SAAS km/h	SH	IRR Land use and risk rating: low, medium, high	Road conditions	Deceased details Gender, Age, User	Deceased drivers' licence status	Restraint or helmet worn	Vehicle type where occupant died	UCSR/ANCAP/ CWR (light vehicles only)	Other vehicles involved
	Auckland Redacted under s9(2)(a) of the OIA	100	No info on Megamaps	Yes	No info on Megamaps	Dry	Motorcyclist	Full Current	yes	Motorcycle	Not applicable for motorcycle	Car

About the information:
Data is taken from NZ Police fatal crash notifications, Rightcar (https://rightcar.govt.nz/) and Mega Maps as at 8 am 11/04/2023
Fatal crash notifications are received within 24 hours of a death by NZ Police. Therefore, a recent crash may not be included in the report. Any subsequent death, within thirty days of the crash, will be recorded when received.
Deaths already excluded from the road toll based on Ministry of Transport assessment are not included in the data. Fatal crashes may be excluded from the road toll because the deaths may be caused by medical events, suicide, homicide, "Acts of God", be off-road or non-motor vehicle crashes, or the death may occur more than thirty days after the crash.
Fatal crashes may have occurred within the period for which notifications may be received later.
Traffic crash data covers all NZ roadways or places where the public have legal access with a motor vehicle.

- In some cases, the NZ Police description of what happened has been altered to change the tense and to protect the privacy of individuals.

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Appendix A – Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) Programme update

Release 6 is on track for 18 April 2023 and includes the ability to change an account name, reject accepted vehicles that have write off entries, delete accepted vehicles that are written off, accept or decline CO2 account ownership transfer requests, know the fleet average account position, and provide a scheme position report.

The Release 7 (1 June 2023) technology build is very complex and there may be teething issues upon its release. Release 7 is the essential legislated functionality for Pay As You Go (PAYG) importers to offset or pay charges, transfer credits between importers, invoice PAYG balances and provide a publicly available record of account holders. The team is confident that the functionality required for importers will be delivered on time and the Waka Kotahi team will be well prepared.

To prepare for any teething issues faced by importers, a go-live support plan has been developed. This includes daily issues' triage and management with importers and the Clean Car Standard (CCS) team, hyper care support to the CCS team, scenario planning for the CO2 gigametre/kilometre credit trading market in June 2023, strong industry relationships and substantial preparation and communications.

Industry have repeatedly complimented the team on the quality of the partnership relationship and how valuable it is to them – as it is to us. A lot of effort is put into this relationship. It includes free and frank fortnightly meetings, industry reach-out phone calls, user experience testing, and the ability to work through difficult issues together.

The CCS team have reached out to more than 100 PAYG account holders to check that their CO2 charge position statement has been received, understood and any questions are answered. Feedback is largely positive with people understanding their account and obligations on 1 June 2023. The CCS team will reach out to around 500 account holders in April and May 2023, in preparation for the payment requirement in June 2023.

> **David Crawford, CEO Motor Industry Association** – *Liaison and engagement has been exemplary from my perspective in terms of the frequency of meetings and the exchange of information. We know what's happening, we can provide feedback to you and from you and we are able to keep our members informed. This has made our job a hell of a lot easier than it might have otherwise been, so from me, thank you. This has been one of the better examples of industry government co-ordination.*
>
> **David Vinsen, CEO Imported Motor Vehicle Industry Association** – *I want to reiterate again the utility and benefit of the Industry working group meetings. They help Industry and NZTA to understand what the complex issues are, and what would be otherwise impossible to resolve by way of emails dealing with individuals. This is a very important message. We've waited 20 years to have a seat at the table and are impressed with the way you've worked with us.*

Operational Delivery insights

2,358 accounts have been created.

Of these:

- 109 have imported 100+
- 395 have imported 5-99
- 31 are Fleet Average accounts
- 2,327 are PAYG accounts
- 161 are new car industry
- 2,197 are used car industry

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