

10 February 2023

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-11803

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 1 January 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

What is the cost to replace all road signs with the words KURA SCHOOL?

Road Controlling Authorities are only required to use the new bilingual traffic signs when existing signs on the network need to be replaced or new signs are introduced. Existing English-only signs remain legal and do not need to be replaced until they have reached the end of their life.

Therefore, no additional funding is required as the costs of replacing existing signs and introducing new signs are already built into the system.

Through the new Māori Language Act and the development of the Maihi Karauna (the Crown's Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation 2019-2023), the government is committed to enhancing support for Te Reo Māori revitalisation by all government agencies as a normal part of the way we do business. Waka Kotahi has also signalled its commitment to this.

The Government wants to see Te Reo Māori seen, spoken and heard wherever possible, to continue the revitalisation of the language. We are seizing the opportunity to introduce bilingual school signs in advance of other bilingual traffic signs to align with expected changes to speed limits around schools from next year.

Prior to the implementation of bilingual signage Waka Kotahi researched the use of bilingual signage in other countries and the resulting impacts to road safety. The research has shown that there is little evidence of major safety impacts associated with bilingual signage, there is no evidence that death and serious injury became more frequent on routes where bilingual signage was implemented

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact me, by email to nicholas.manukau@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Manukau', is centered below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Nicholas Manukau
Senior Manager, Māori