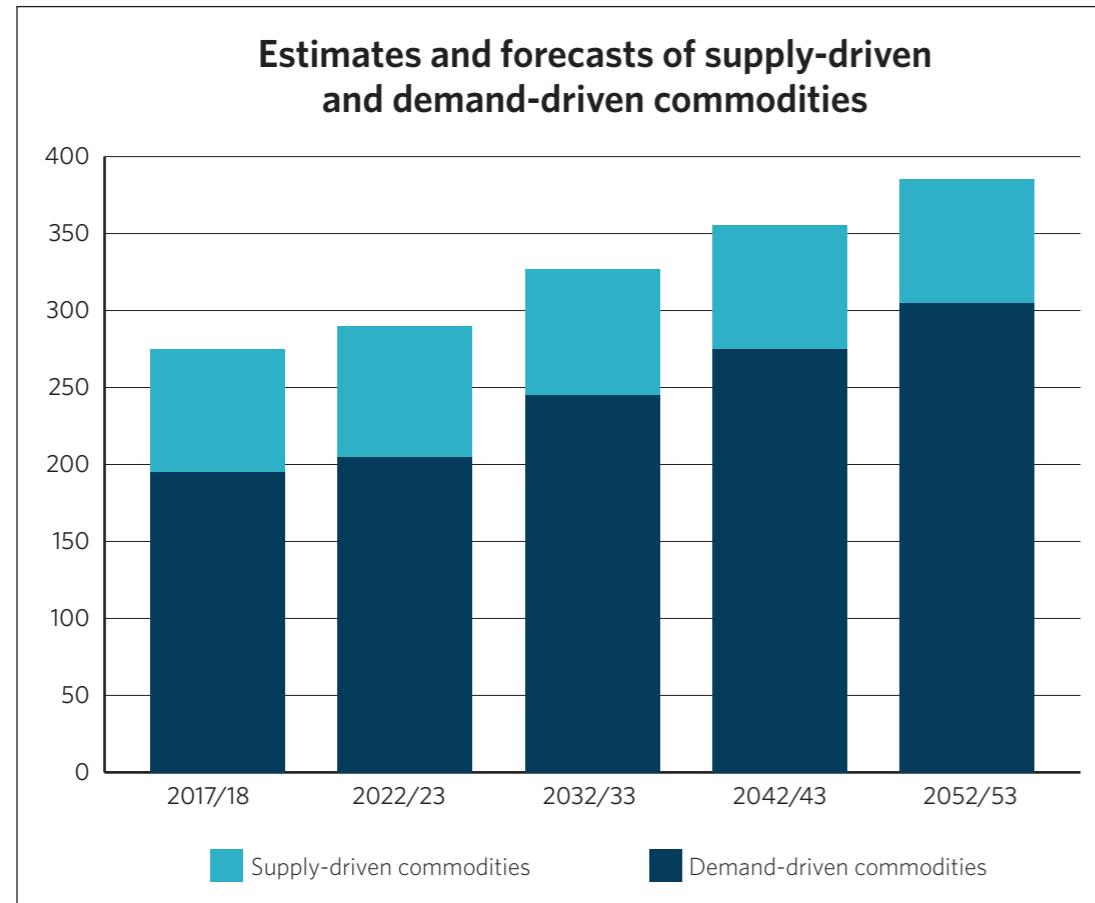


# Action Plan for Freight

Freight is a key enabler of economic activity, referring to the goods that are carried from one place to another by ship, aircraft, train or truck. While an important economic contributor at the national-level, freight also directly impacts and improves the lives of individual New Zealanders by enabling liveability and wellbeing outcomes.

As New Zealand's population continues to grow, particularly in urban areas, so too does the demand for goods. Based on current projections, New Zealand's freight volumes will increase by 55% over the next 20 years.



Action Plan for Freight (APF) focuses on NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) led actions across the freight system to support economic growth and productivity, resilience, and safety in alignment with Government Policy Statement on land transport (GPS) 2024.

An Investment Logic Mapping exercise revealed a number of problem statements and in response we developed five strategic responses focusing on areas of public benefit which then guided the development of NZTA initiatives. The strategic responses are:

- » We maintain and invest in a network that supports efficient freight movements for all modes.
- » We support the use of better data in investment, operational and modal decision-making to support efficient freight movements.
- » We maximise the availability of the transport system for customers by keeping the network open and available for freight.
- » We maintain and invest to enable a resilient network to reduce risk and improve our ability to be ready, respond and recover from disruptions.
- » We engage with industry, and advocate where there is public benefit, to address the freight industry's strategic and tactical concerns to achieve key outcomes- to improve both the perception and the value of freight to the New Zealand public.

The resulting initiatives in the APF are classified as either primary initiatives (those directly delivered by NZTA that are designed to deliver a step-change to the freight sector) or supporting initiatives (those where either NZTA is delivering wider initiatives that support Government priorities that benefit wider transport users including the freight sector, or where NZTA plays a supporting role to an initiative delivered by another agency).

The initiatives give effect to the GPS priorities and seek to address the key problems identified with an emphasis on demonstrating the value of freight, maximising the use of data, delivering infrastructure that considers the needs of the sector, and improvements to regulatory settings.

The initiatives have also been socialised with and are generally supported by the freight sector. We have been conscious of the 'pain points' raised by the industry and where these issues align with our role as central government regulator and road controlling authority, we have included these in our initiatives.

# Action Plan for Freight

## Outcome: Economic Growth and Productivity

**Strategic Response:** Freight system is optimised for economic growth and productivity.

**Primary Initiatives:** To be delivered by NZTA, with support from other agencies/organisations where appropriate

1. Determine the Value of Freight to the New Zealand economy.
2. Strengthen NZTA's engagement with industry through effective freight forums.
3. Strengthen the freight lens in Arataki (NZTA's 30-year plan).
4. Confirm the nationally strategic and regionally strategic freight networks using current data.
5. Establish appropriate road freight levels of service.
6. Update the methodology for the interpeak freight travel time reliability SPE and create a heatmap of freight movements using current data.
7. Research urban freight patterns to increase efficiency.
8. Progress regulatory reforms that increase the productivity of the sector.
9. Review and update the current rest area strategy.
10. Update the National Freight Demand Study

**Supporting Initiatives:** Delivered through wider NZTA initiatives or by other agencies/organisations (with support from NZTA where appropriate)

- Ensure freight is well considered in Roads of National Significance (RoNS) development. Lead: NZTA.
- Ensure freight is well considered in Road Pricing development. Lead: NZTA.
- Regional Spatial Freight Strategies. Lead: Local Government.

## Outcome: Resilience

**Strategic Response:** Freight system is resilient and can recover from disruptions.

11. Research strategic vulnerabilities of the freight network.

## Outcome: Safe

**Strategic Response:** Freight system is optimised to lower safety risk and enable lower emissions.

12. Research freight mode contestability.
13. Continue to deliver the Commercial Vehicle Safety Programme.

- EV charging rollout. Lead: MBIE.
- Introduction of Clean Heavy Vehicles grant. Lead: MBIE/EECA.
- Freight mode shift from road to rail. Lead: KiwiRail.